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DEPARTMENT  
FOR  
COMMUNITY  
WELFARE

**ANNUAL** FOR THE  
**REPORT** YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30

**1973**







WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1972-73

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DEPARTMENT FOR  
COMMUNITY WELFARE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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for the year ended

June 30, 1973

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
DEPARTMENT FOR  
COMMUNITY WELFARE  
ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended  
June 30 1973

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



THE HON. R. THOMPSON, M.L.C.  
Minister for Community Welfare.

Sir,

*In accordance with Section 11 of the Community Welfare Act, 1972, I hereby submit a report on the work of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1973.*

**K. A. MAINE,**  
Director, Community Welfare

# **APPRECIATION**

The thanks of the Department go to all Governmental and semi-Governmental bodies, religious and community organisations and individuals who, by their active participation or by their friendly support, have contributed in any way to the welfare of those for whom the Department has responsibility in the State of Western Australia.

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# INTRODUCTION

A new chapter in the history of social welfare in Western Australia began with the creation of a Community Welfare Portfolio on 3rd March, 1971, when Mr. W. F. Willesee became the first Minister for Community Welfare. Work then began on the preparation of a Community Welfare Act and the organisational re-arrangements that were required and which primarily effected the former Native Welfare Department and the responsibilities carried by that Department.

On 1st July, 1972, the Community Welfare Act came into force and the Department for Community Welfare was established. Certain of the welfare activities for Aborigines which had previously been undertaken by the Department of Native Welfare were incorporated with those of the Child Welfare Department, and these together with a number of new functions prescribed by the Government now define the field of activity for the new Department.

The new functions require the Department to give much more attention to community issues and problems, and all those social matters which effect the well-being of families and individuals. This outward orientation and more fluid field of operation has required a good degree of adjustment on the part of Departmental staff who had previously been directed mostly by the narrower and fairly precise statutory obligations defined in our Acts. It has been most heartening to observe the manner in which staff have responded to this new emphasis in their daily work. The kinds of initiatives that have been displayed, and the preparedness to see problems through the eyes of the sufferer rather than the limits of Acts and Regulations gives good promise of a vital and effective Community Welfare Department for the future. The extent to which these promises are realised will now depend upon the readiness of governments to adequately finance and staff the new Department. Without extra staff and additional funds to fulfill the new expectations, the public will be the poorer and the potential for a realistic constructive approach to community problems that now characterises the staff will be undermined.

Over the past twelve months, extremely heavy work loads have been carried by all levels of officers in the Department. We have had to respond to the requirements of Commissions, Committees of Inquiry and other investigatory bodies seeking information and submissions from the Department on a number of social issues. At the same time, some of the new policies of the Australian Department of Social Security have placed a good deal of strain upon sections of the Department required to prepare information to enable the transfer of some areas of financial responsibility. We have also accepted a number of self-imposed tasks during these difficult times by undertaking several projects that should improve communication within the Department and our service to the public. A comprehensive Departmental manual has been developed, telex has been installed in most of our country offices and a revision of publicity and information giving material is under way. Two publications have been issued, one on Training for Staff in Day Care, and one on the Homemaker Scheme.

In previous years, the Child Welfare Department adopted a policy of directing nearly all of its finance for expansion into the provision of front-line staff. This was necessary due to the excessive work load of field staff and institutional staff and because it achieved the best effect for the severely limited funds that were available. There has been a negligible staff increase for Community Welfare in this past year and an unfortunate side effect of the staffing policies of earlier years is now catching up with us. We are severely short of internal and back-up services to such an extent that concentration will have to be given to this area of need in future staff budgets if the Department is to obtain a good level of executive efficiency. Research, public relations, staff development and additional administrative strength are needs that most require attention.

The Annual Conference of Child and Social Welfare Administrators was held in Adelaide in May, followed by the Conference of responsible Ministers in June. Officers and Ministers representing the Australian Government attended and the Conference agenda gave major attention to areas of the welfare field that were of mutual concern to the States and the Australian Government. It is anticipated that a number of long-standing problems will be cleared up and some improvements effected to the welfare benefits programmes of both State and Federal Governments as a result of further actions that have been taken.

The serious shortage of institutional accommodation continues to cause much concern. This State has the unenviable record of holding more juveniles in gaols than any other State—regardless of population—and of having fewer institutional treatment beds per thousand of the population for young offenders. In one facility in particular a dangerous state of affairs exists because overcrowding requires that children must be accommodated in ablution blocks, changerooms, passageways and sitting rooms. The institution was built for a fixed capacity of sixty but regularly holds more than seventy young persons in trouble with the law. Delays in constructing new accommodation are extremely frustrating and cause institutional staff to devote too much time to the tasks of receiving and discharging children and too little time to their actual treatment. Although more institutional space is immediately needed, particularly the provision of the smaller specialised treatment facilities, we are also aware of the importance of stimulating the development of community based treatment programmes that are far less costly and without some of the disadvantages of institutional treatment. It is hoped we will obtain sufficient resources to involve ourselves more in these types of programmes in the future at the same time as we catch up with some of the back-log in institutional services.



This report has been prepared largely by the officers responsible for the main areas of the Department's activity. The report is larger than in previous years, due to our expanded functions and the style of expression varies. We have tried to give as much relevant background information as possible in view of the fact that this is the first report from the new Department and should be useful to students and others interested in the history of changes that have occurred in the field of welfare.

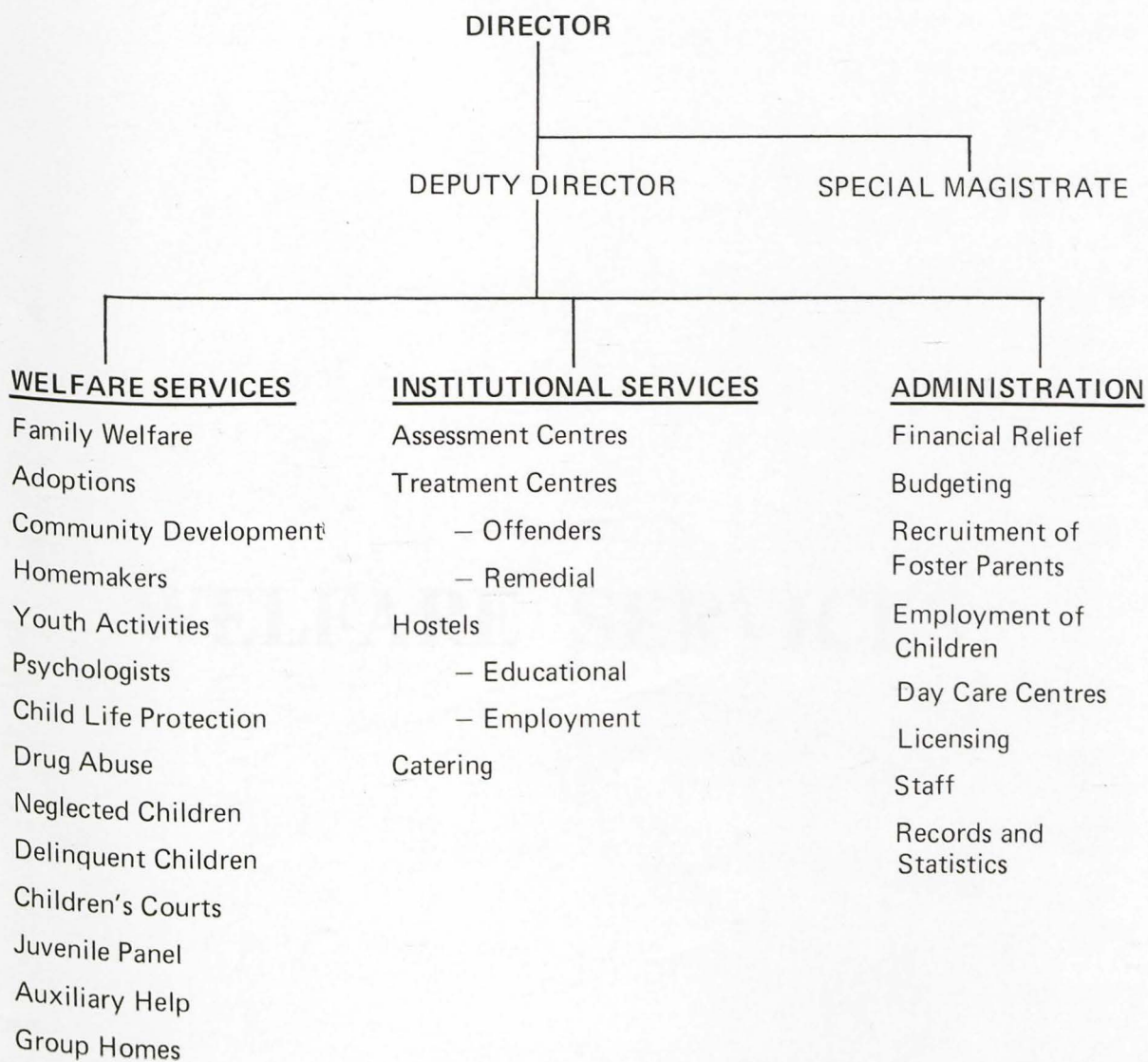
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the other Government Departments and voluntary organisations and groups who have been so helpful and co-operative during this past year of settling down to our new tasks. In particular, our thanks are due to the public for their pleasing reaction to the Department's extension of service.

K. MAINE,

Director.



## FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE



ORGANISATION CHART — PAGE 73



# WELFARE SERVICES





## **METROPOLITAN FIELD SERVICES**

The Metropolitan Field Services of the Department as set up on 1st July, 1972, consisted of the seven centres and two sub-centres previously maintained by the Child Welfare Department and the Central Division office of the Native Welfare Department (see list of office locations, page 15).

Some of the staff from Central Division were located in each of the other seven Divisions and the remainder set up an eighth Metropolitan Division which was named East Perth. The other divisions retained the locations they had under Child Welfare Department.

All eight Divisions and two sub-offices then undertook to provide the broadened scope of functions required by the new Department.

### **Organisation and Priorities**

Provision of Field Services under the broader scope of the Acts administered by the new Department rapidly emphasised the problem of competing priorities. It was apparent that the two essential areas of Child Welfare work—Dependent Children and Delinquency—had to be balanced with the needs of Aboriginal and general family welfare, in addition to new areas opened up by the Community Welfare Act's emphasis on Community Work.

Since 1st July, 1972, there has been a conscious effort to provide within the Metropolitan services a more rational approach to serving all areas equally and as adequately as resources permit. The needs of Aboriginal families already assisted by Homemakers from the Native Welfare Department were met by the appointment within each Division of a Social Worker who specialised with this group of clients, and who also facilitated liaison with the Supervisor of Homemaker Services located at Head Office.

These workers met with the Special Supervisor regularly and the system has enabled a more uniform and higher standard of service to be provided than would have been possible with all field staff being involved. This system, which is now working relatively well, may be extended for use in the areas of dependent and delinquent children also. The Community Planning Consultant likewise provides a service for specialised workers within Divisions which follows the same form of organisation and structure.

The advantage of this method is that it compartmentalises functions sufficiently to allow staff to work within a rather narrower area, enabling them to deal rationally with the high priority of crisis situations while still working on a planned basis with their other work. The specialisation is not rigid. It allows for movement of staff from one facet of work, e.g. Wards Dependent, to another, e.g. Family Welfare, and yet because it is a localised specialisation it permits the proper co-ordination of the Department's work with multi-problem families who often need the services of all areas of the Department's expertise.

In general, any particular family is provided with one worker but where two are involved, they co-ordinate their work by virtue of being within the one office and under the one immediate Supervisor.

### **Aboriginal and Family Welfare Services**

Social Workers and Family Welfare Officers who had previous experience with the Native Welfare Department were spread among those with Child Welfare backgrounds. Evident from the start was the excellent spirit of co-operation, sharing of skills and working together towards the aims of the new Department.

Metropolitan Aboriginal Welfare Services underwent some changes. In those areas where there has been a transfer of Native Welfare Department functions to agencies other than Community Welfare, e.g. housing, there existed some problems of adjustment for certain Aboriginal families. By the end of 1972, most of these difficulties had been overcome, however there are still some Aborigines and groups of Aborigines who express a belief that a Welfare Service set up specifically for them would be better.

Increasingly supportive family services such as Homemakers (see page 22), personal services to one parent families, marital counselling, etc., are developing as one of the functional work areas mentioned above.

There is still scope for improvement in Family Welfare services but the structure already set up for this offers soundly based hope for future progress provided adequate trained staff are available.



### **Dependent Children**

Dependent wards of the Department who are placed, other than with their parents, and these include both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children, are a major responsibility of the Department. Adequate Field Services to Institutions, Foster Homes, Group Homes, Scatter Cottages and Hostels where dependent wards are variously placed depends on the availability of sufficient experienced and trained staff. Shortages in this area have so far prevented any significant advance but field service re-organisation has led to a degree of improvement which sets a firm basis on which future improvements can be built.

There has been already an excellent development by way of co-operation with the Child Health Services in the area of neglected children suspected of being maltreated.

### **Behaviour Problem and Delinquent Children**

This area of Departmental responsibility in the Metropolitan field is competing for scarce resources and there is a clear need to provide more adequate assessment of children's needs and an improved and more varied treatment programme.

The appointment of a Youth Organiser has aided the Metropolitan Field Staff in several ways, and there have been a few notable developments. Several experiments with Youth Camps for delinquent children and the "Mini-Bike Programme" where selected boys participate in an activity which is attractive to them, and which is used to develop their confidence and trust, have opened up a range of treatment resources. There is, however, much more that could yet be done given suitable resources in personnel and facilities.

### **Community Organisation and Liaison**

Two full-time Community Workers were appointed to the Metropolitan Services during the year. They operate from the Morley Office where techniques in Community Development are being developed at Balga and from the Fremantle Division where the Officer responsible is directly involved with the State Housing Commission Fremantle Social Planning Committee, and with local groups at Willagee and Coolbellup. One of these groups, The Coolbellup Young People's League, has developed some interesting after-school craft activities (see picture).





Liaison with the Millen After School Care Programme is being maintained by the Victoria Park Division, and direct aid has also been given to an Aboriginal group in East Perth which is providing a much needed " Soup Kitchen " service to destitute elderly Aborigines.

### Work Loads and Auxiliary Help

Statistical measurement of work loads was undertaken immediately following the formation of the Department, and current measures show a work load some 40 per cent. in excess of the optimum. The problem of adequate staff resources has been exacerbated by the Public Service system of filling Field Service vacancies. Delays in filling vacant items often deplete staff levels to dangerously low points.

A change in the present system is urgently needed.

There has been, however, a growth of auxiliary help to Field Staff and a number of Welfare Assistants have enabled Divisions to cope with work they would otherwise have neglected. These Auxiliaries, who are employed on a part-time basis, undertake short term task-oriented responsibilities rather than case work and, with Divisional Assistants obtained from the Native Welfare Department, are proving to be an invaluable resource.

### *Metropolitan Divisions*

#### LOCATION OF OFFICES

<b>Belmont</b>	....	....	55 Laurie Street, Cloverdale
<b>City</b>	....	....	" Willmar House ", 600 Murray Street, West Perth
<b>East Perth</b>	....	....	" A. & G. Building ", 79 Stirling Street, Perth
<b>Fremantle</b>	....	....	" Crane House ", 185 High Street, Fremantle
<b>Sub-Office</b>	....	....	<b>Rockingham</b> Kent Street, Rockingham
<b>Midland</b>	....	....	291 Great Eastern Highway, Midland
<b>Morley</b>	....	....	Cnr. Rudloc and Russell Streets, Morley
<b>Sub-Office</b>	....	....	<b>Balga</b> Cnr. Ditchling and Arkana Roads, Balga
<b>Mt. Hawthorn</b>	....	....	63 Flinders Street, Mt. Hawthorn
<b>Victoria Park</b>	....	....	15 Mackie Street, Victoria Park

### COUNTRY FIELD SERVICES

The Country Field Services consist of six Divisions made up of 31 regional District Offices (see map page 16). The offices are staffed by social workers, district officers, welfare assistants, homemakers, clerical officers and volunteers. Social Work Supervisors are responsible for the overall supervision of planning for each Division.

The response of the Department's officers since amalgamation has been one of enthusiasm and hard work. Their performance and achievements are reflected in the programmes outlined in the individual Divisional reports that follow.

Throughout the State, the Department has played an initiating role in a large number of community development projects aimed at preventive welfare. It is apparent that under the new Community Welfare Act staff have a greater opportunity to provide a range of welfare services which best serve the needs of their area.

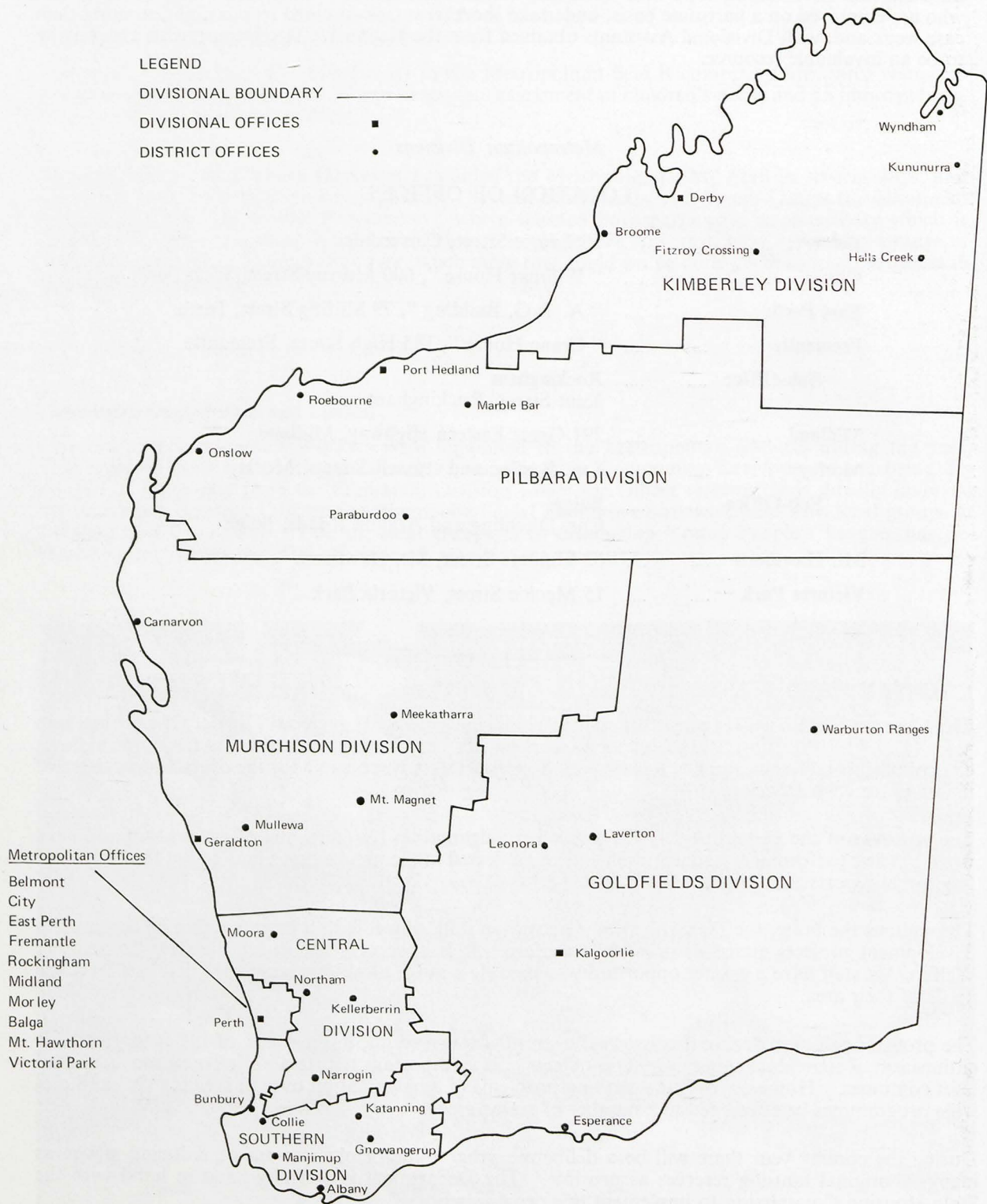
The progress achieved during the first twelve months was a result, in the main, of the energy and the enthusiasm of individual supervisors and officers. It is important that this initiative at the individual level continues. However, with the teething problems of amalgamation over, it is planned that State-wide programmes be developed in a number of major areas.

During the coming year there will be a deliberate programme of phasing out or reducing in size as many Aboriginal housing reserves as possible. The Department is working hand in hand with the State Housing Commission to implement this programme.



It is also planned during the next twelve months to provide an improved programme of in-service training for country officers and to improve communication and contact between country and metropolitan staff. Finance has been provided in the budget for an increased number of specialist services to extend their activities to country areas. A number of country divisions have experienced hardship over the last year due to staff shortages. It is envisaged that with a realistic increase in Head Office administrative and support staff, including the appointment of a staff selection and training officer, there will be an improvement in the procedures for filling vacant items. This, together with an increased number of relieving staff, should eliminate a number of the problems of the present year.

COUNTRY DIVISIONS AND LOCATION OF OFFICES  
OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE





### **Kimberley Division**

This Division has spent most of the past year reorganising itself in response to the new policy that has been laid down by the Community Welfare Act.

Careful planning was needed to ensure that field staff were used in the most efficient way in dealing with the complex problems of Aboriginal welfare in such a remote part of the State.

Among some of the major developments noted by officers of this Division was the reappearance among tribal Aborigines of tribal authority and influence. Elders were vocal in demanding land rights and in criticising the behaviour of younger Aborigines who were constantly in trouble, both with the police and within the tribe. Elders were organised into various bodies to advise Departmental officers on issues that affect Aborigines in the Kimberley. Thus there are consultative councillors for matters involving the management of the camping reserves, advisers to courts and elders acting as unofficial probation officers to offending State wards.

Considerable time was spent by staff in consultation with Aboriginal groups over community development projects. This involved crystallising group thinking on various issues and clarifying Departmental functions where overlap with other bodies occurred. Results of such consultation can be seen in the Liveringa/Camballin land excision and the Bardi One Arm Point movement. Liaison with other Departmental bodies associated with health, welfare and education has shown a marked increase this year.

Two reserve pre-school centres have been commenced, one at Derby and the other at Wyndham. Rough shelters and small equipment sheds were set up with Departmental finance and Aboriginal labour. This has proved a valuable asset towards the education of pre-school children.

Plans were also drawn up and finance spent on a pensioners' long-house at Halls Creek for the frail aged on the Halls Creek reserve. The materials and work are being carried out under the supervision of the State Housing Commission which has been most co-operative in this respect.

The old Native Hospital in Wyndham has been converted through the energetic efforts of field staff and homemakers into a hostel for Aborigines needing emergency accommodation. A kindergarten, a homemakers' training centre and facilities for Aboriginal youth have also been developed at the "Bulungurr Hostel" site.

The Mirrima Aboriginal Council has also flourished under the guidance of the District Officer at Kununurra and she has been particularly active in initiating economic projects with the Aborigines via Canberra. Of course not all work has been with Aborigines. Adoptions, destitute travellers and marital problems have contributed to the work load, especially at the Broome office.

All Reserves have benefited in some way because of the available finance to improve otherwise deplorable facilities. Some of the improvements included the provision of incinerators, fencing, 240V electricity.

During the next year it is hoped to commence large-scale projects to upgrade health facilities on all Aboriginal reserves. It is hoped that the work will be carried out by the Public Works Department and the State Housing Commission. Included in this are plans to provide additional rooms and private ablution facilities to selected houses of the Type III design. Plans are also afoot to obtain Commonwealth finance to set up multi-purpose homemaker training centres, and tribal council offices on two reserves in the Kimberley. Reserve managers are being encouraged to assume a more responsible role in running the affairs of their reserves.

It is hoped within the next year to lease a house in the West Kimberley for the purpose of providing accommodation for emergencies and to temporarily house children or destitute families in transit.

It goes without saying that new and replacement staff will be needed to further the work already undertaken, with enthusiasm and dedication, by field staff often under extremely frustrating conditions.

### **Pilbara Division**

The Pilbara Division covers an area of approximately 180,000 square miles with the Regional Administrative Centre located at Port Hedland and District Offices located at Marble Bar, Roebourne, Paraburdoo and Onslow. These offices serve a population of approximately 40,000 people in an area which has potentially the greatest rate of expansion in Australia, due to the extensive mineral deposits available attracting investment.

Rapid population expansion, the building of new communities and the large immigration of a labour force and their families have made this an area which presents considerable new challenges in the welfare field.

Apart from the usual activities conducted under the Acts administered by the Department for Community Welfare, the officers in the Pilbara Division are currently engaged in promoting the expansion of youth work, researching the effect of confined living in caravan parks and investigating the special needs of people living in ready-made communities such as the mining towns.



Aboriginal Reserves are also receiving special attention. The Roebourne Aboriginal Reserve in particular will be phased out, with the total population rehoused in conventional housing and in village schemes developed on station properties. The emphasis in this Division is upon promoting self-sufficiency, and in this regard the Homemaker Service is providing considerable assistance in supporting these families on a person-to-person basis in developing the skills necessary to cope independently with European style living.

It is significant that the work load incurred by this Division reflects the nature of the two populations which inhabit the area, namely the indigenous, permanent Aboriginal population and the transient European population whose residence in the area normally extends no longer than four to five years.

Whilst the Aboriginal population presents problems of culture revision and adaptation to a new life-style removed from traditional cultural mores, the Europeans, economically secure, experience problems of adjustment related to isolation from extended families, long working hours, lack of social interaction and climate.

Community development and organisation is the central focus of the work of the Department for Community Welfare in the Pilbara Division. Further research programmes are essential in planning for the people of the region in order to promote a culture secure in emotional well-being.

Understanding and prevention of crisis rather than correction and treatment of social disability are the main objectives in this area which, by virtue of its recent development, affords good opportunities to achieve progress.

### **Murchison Division**

The first twelve months as the Department for Community Welfare has been one of restructuring roles and projecting a new image. This has met with varied success; while Carnarvon and Geraldton Offices have been quickly identified with the new role, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Mullewa Offices are still identified with the old Native Welfare Department, although this identification has now reduced in intensity.

The diversity of the new role has resulted in greater demands on staff. Lack of professional and administrative staff in this Division has meant that the supervision and support of individual District Officers has not been as consistent or constructive as it should have been over this very important first year. Fortunately the more experienced staff in the Division responded very constructively and have given strong support to the less experienced staff in outer districts.

Staff communications have been increased through regular conferences. In addition, the Homemaker conference proved very successful and assisted Homemakers to see themselves as an integral part of the Department.

Community involvement has always been an integral part of country welfare services and since amalgamation, this involvement has increased. The need for community organisation is seen primarily in the Aboriginal sub-culture and a large percentage of community involvement is with Aboriginal groups. The Homemakers have been particularly active in this area in supporting social and cultural activities, in addition to their homemaking role in Aboriginal homes. Public Health services and Aboriginal liaison groups have expressed their appreciation of the Homemaker Service which has contributed to the significant improvement in health and housekeeping standards of the Aboriginal people in the Division. The Homemaker service has been extended to Meekatharra, Mullewa, and Morawa in the last year.

Direct involvement with Health, Education, Employment and Housing bodies has been considerable either on a Departmental basis or by individual officers in their casework involvement.

Involvement with non-government community groups, apart from groups related to Aboriginal welfare, has been limited primarily to youth groups and in the case of Shark Bay to a community welfare group.

In general, the needs of disadvantaged groups such as unmarried mothers, deserted wives, etc., appear to be met by existing resources on an individual basis. The wider spread community needs of a cultural and economic nature, the lack of medical services, problems of isolation and alienation, etc., as evident in the smaller communities, require research, specialised planning and considerable resources.

While we are currently meeting the needs of individuals within disadvantaged groups, assisting disadvantaged communities *in toto* appears beyond our present resources. On the positive side, the Department's role in the larger centres has developed considerably and the casework service offered is available to the total community.

Developments at Geraldton include obtaining a community centre which will be developed as a centre for Homemakers, associated welfare groups and as an emergency accommodation centre. It is also hoped to develop a marriage counselling group and family planning clinic based at this centre.

In Carnarvon, the impending closure of the Reserve, due to a levee being constructed by the Public Works Department, will involve an intensified housing and welfare programme.

Currently the State Housing Commission has rehousing projects at Wiluna, Meekatharra, Mullewa and Mount Magnet, and these together with the possibility of closing Reserves will also involve Departmental welfare officers and Homemakers in expanded programmes.



### **Goldfields Division**

The first year of operation of the Community Welfare Department in the Goldfields saw important changes not only in the welfare field but in the area as a whole. Consolidation and expansion of the nickel industry, rising gold prices and trends towards decentralisation have caused expansions and shifts in the population and modifications in life styles. This has led to increased demands for a variety of welfare services. Specific major areas of involvement in which we are concerned include the following.

In the north-eastern areas of the Division, one of our major roles is work with less sophisticated Aboriginal people. This work, since the inception of the new Department, has been two pronged.

First, with the growing housing programme, there has been a concerted effort to provide group training projects for potential tenants in a variety of skills for living. Women have been involved in learning basic domestic and child care skills and, together with their husbands, have been provided with guidance so they can more adequately cope with the economic pressures that tenancy of a house will bring. At a different level, group discussions have been held to help people face the broader implications of moving into the European community.

Second, we have been endeavouring to educate both the Aboriginal and European communities to deal directly with each other, instead of relying on the paternalism of a Department to act as a mediator whenever they are in conflict. This need to have an "interpreter/buffer" for the Aboriginal in his legal, medical, educational and commercial transactions, has been ingrained and, although it is still necessary in some cases, it has been possible to gradually modify old expectations to an extent. This is a programme that is still continuing.

Because of the cultural dynamics inherent in mining communities, there is a large amount of family disruption in the area. Apart from our statutory aid under the Welfare and Assistance Act, an increasing amount of work in the supportive and counselling areas has been undertaken with single parent families.

Kalgoorlie continues to have the busiest Children's Court outside the metropolitan area. This load, together with the numbers of less sophisticated Aboriginal juvenile offenders from the north of the Division, poses great problems in the area of treatment and rehabilitation.

Although we are currently concentrating on preventive and rehabilitative work and avoiding committal action wherever possible, there are still a large number of dependent wards in the Division. We are therefore developing an active foster programme in the Division.

Aboriginal education is another of our major areas of responsibility. We have two residential centres for children from isolated districts, one for primary and one for high school students. Although these are hampered by shortage of staff, everything possible is done to provide a broad social education in addition to formal schooling, in an endeavour to help the children become more able to cope with the intricacies of European society.

In the wider community, we have been concerned with such diverse things as setting up and part-funding of a kindergarten in Laverton, the establishment of a Hospital Visiting Service and Meals-on-Wheels in Kalgoorlie. This type of community involvement will become an increasingly important part of our work in the future.

Generally, this Division's staff have been effective in providing an expanding variety of services at a greater depth than in the past. Our ability to continue this expansion into new fields and also to further improve the amount and effectiveness of individual client contact depends, to a large extent, on the provision of more specialised staff to cope with particular areas of need.

### **Central Division**

Central Division consists largely of wheat growing areas, with patches of mixed farming, and containing a number of important country towns. The Aboriginal population is almost without exception of mixed blood and dwells in close proximity to white people.

The amalgamation of Native Welfare and Child Welfare Departments at the beginning of the year covered by this report has given time to show the effects of new policies. Generally, the majority of Aborigines seem to appreciate being given equal treatment status, apart from a few older ones who are unable to break away from their dependency and expectation of handouts. There is some slow and early recognition from white populations that Community Welfare no longer means a specialised service available only to a small, disadvantaged group. The entire credit for this must go to each of the District Officers for their liaison with Shires, service clubs, Government Departments and other influential local organisations.

Two of the four District Offices serve the sparsely populated areas and are affected by the usual problems of supervision and personal contact. Both of these offices have come to be used as unofficial agencies for a large number of other Departments. The Employment Service, Social Security, Education, and State Housing are examples. Other bodies such as the Public Trustee, Hospital Benefits and Legal Aid rely on a staff at these offices for local contact. The most frequent service is to explain requirements and fill in forms for illiterate and dependent people. Proper communication is difficult but vital, and its value has been shown in preventing evictions, future sickness or marriage breakdowns.



Part-time homemakers and the prospect of Welfare Assistants in the Division have made a big impact. There are now 26 homemakers in the Division, each fulfilling the expected support for families learning socialisation, but each also making individual contributions.

In Narrogin, a nutritious and cheap lunch, largely prepared by the Aboriginal mothers themselves, is improving the general health and behaviour of their children and is helping to reduce truancy.

Here too, the District's homemakers benefit from supervision by a trained social worker.

In Northam, the Aboriginal women have renovated a small hall in order to conduct arts and crafts groups, and now have an active Mothers' Club.

In the Kellerberrin district, there are sewing and cooking classes in seven areas, with active support from the local Shire.

In Moora, one homemaker works specifically on the Reserve, raising the residents' capabilities in a conscious effort to make the Reserve redundant.

In all, Central Division has seven Reserves and there are immediate prospects of some closing down. With the installation of 240 volt power, the residents are able to learn to use normal household appliances.

In general, court appearances for offences on applications have diminished over the year, and are not a large feature of most officer's duties. Rural officers usually hear of threatened breakdowns quite early and are able to bring about effective prevention.

Officers are finding increased work with families in necessitous circumstances and are able to do much preventive work by being the first person the family has to contact for monetary assistance. All officers have received a steady flow of requests for adoption reports, averaging 25 to 30 reports per office in the year.

Supervision of wards, some in foster care, continues, as does the supervision of adults for the probation and parole service. Two offices have some responsibility for local hostels, and are the most immediate contact for hostel managers.

Central Division has steered a generally satisfactory course in the first year of amalgamation towards more involvement of whole communities, in the welfare of all its members. The change-over has happened with very little disruption. Improvement will continue, as long as funds and staff go on expanding.

### **Southern Division**

The last twelve months marked the commencement of a new era in thinking towards modern welfare within this Department. Southern Division's staff have positively approached the new Department's functions in the area of community welfare, laying the foundations for planned approaches in assisting present community problems and working towards the prevention of likely problems of the future.

In previous annual reports, concern has been expressed regarding the acute shortage of staff. It is pleasing to note that with the commencement of the new Department, forward and appropriate thinking accepted the need for increased staff within Southern Division.

Field staff increased by five within this Division. As a result of staff increases and the inclusion of supervisory and trained staff, approaches towards individual, group and community problems are more purposeful than previously. The somewhat parallel functioning of two Departments prior to the amalgamation caused at times duplication and confusion. It is clear that over the last twelve months these aspects have been reduced.

A planned approach has been made towards the upgrading or actual removal of reserves within the Division. There has been a general reduction of Reserve inhabitants and the movement of families from Reserves to town houses has, for most, been a smooth operation through homemaker supports.

In addition, community services and organisations have been encouraged in a co-ordinated method to assist those disadvantaged individuals or families alleviate disruption or disorganisation.

Accent has been towards promoting community participation, with welfare and service groups increasingly taking on responsibilities which in the past have been neglected or construed to be a government responsibility. Community centres are becoming a worthwhile resource within Southern Division for both homemaker as well as for community programmes. Apart from training in the areas of home management, these centres offer unique opportunities for improving social skills and development of relationships between individuals of different nationalities and colour. The use of community centres is wide and can vary from play centres for pre-kindergarten children to homework and activity classes for latchkey children. Centres at Collie and Bunbury are now established and plans are under way for centres elsewhere within the Division.



## SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNITY WELFARE

### Community Planning, Development and Organisation

The Department, by definition, is involved in Community Welfare but in the past this involvement has been for the most part in the pursuit of the welfare of sections of the community rather than in treating it as a whole.

The amalgamation of the Child and Native Welfare Departments and the assumption of the name Community Welfare at 1st July, 1972, afforded a unique opportunity for the Department to undertake the expansion of its community activities. The Department saw the need to concern itself with the ordinary activities of the community and with the use of that community's resources in helping to solve social problems and in preventing them.

A Community Planning Consultant was appointed in September, 1972, to facilitate the Department's increased community participation by :—

Consulting with and informing Departmental Officers, other Government Departments and community agencies on the use and promotion of community resources and the effective employment of methods and techniques of community organisation, development and planning.

Recommending to the Director changes in community approaches and/or the development of new measures to meet welfare needs.

Advising and/or participating in research projects within and without the Department designed to promote the objectives of the Department and to evaluate community methods used.

In January, 1973, a social worker was appointed as a community development officer to the Balga-Girrawheen area of the Morley Division and in March, 1973, one was appointed to the Fremantle Division.

Liaison with personnel of voluntary organisations and of other Government agencies interested in community work has been effected, and negotiations with the Schools of Social Work at the University and Western Australian Institute of Technology for students to gain community experience have been commenced.

The concept of community involvement as fundamental to the effective functioning of social welfare agencies is now generally accepted. The Department intends to keep abreast of this trend by its own efforts and by awareness of current literature, attendance at conferences and discussion with resident and visiting experts.

### Youth Activities

With the formation of the Department for Community Welfare, a need was seen for an officer to arrange, organise and take responsibility for Youth Activities for children under the supervision of the Department. A Youth Organiser was appointed in October, 1972, with a view to promoting this aspect of the community welfare service.

The Department recognises the importance of meaningful and creative activities as an integral part of the total development of young people and as a means of combating juvenile delinquency. During the period under review, the Department has further promoted the development of these activities with the belief that they provide many essential elements of the child's total development. These elements include social integration, sense of adventure, development of skills, new possibilities in the use of leisure time and close leader-group relationships; all of these in an atmosphere where there is readiness on the part of the child. Most important of all it is providing an activity in which a child can develop a sense of personal worth and identity.

The importance of this self-identity is perhaps best summarised by Alan Paton, a past school principal, recognised for his literary ability and community work in South Africa, when he wrote in *A Long View* (1968), "To mean something to the world is the deepest hunger of the human soul, deeper than any bodily hunger or thirst, and when a man has lost it he is no longer a man".

For a number of years now, the Department has conducted youth classes particularly for young men who are placed on probation and seen to need positive development in the use of their leisure time.

The youth classes are conducted three nights each week and the programme is designed to introduce the participants to a wide range of possibilities in the field of recreation. Classes are designed to avoid measures which may be regarded as punitive or repressive. The programme includes opportunities for development of interest in hobbies and artistic or cultural pursuits with the aim to provide the widest possible range of leisure time activities challenging to young people. The Department recognises and appreciates the talent and efforts of Mr. J. M. Forde and his support staff who have been conducting these classes for the Department since 1957.

In addition to this programme, the Department has participated in a Mini Bike programme. This has been made possible by the kind donation of 120 Mini Bikes to the Y.M.C.A. by the Honda Motor Bike Company. The Y.M.C.A. accepted the responsibility to manage the "Honda Youth Programme Using Mini Bikes".



That organisation sought the co-operation of this Department in implementing a programme and subsequently allocated 23 of the bikes for the exclusive use of the Department. The Mini Bike programme is seen as a very acceptable reward activity and the essential elements of the well supervised sessions are safety, education, recreation, leadership training and organisation.



The "Dolphins" Under-water Swimming Club continued to meet in season during the period under review. This group has developed its own qualified leaders over the years and provides a very worthwhile recreational activity for some of the children in the Department's care.

During the year, ten residential camps were conducted by the Department for children from differing backgrounds. These camps were of varying types including canoeing expeditions, hiking, caving and other typical camping activities. The Department liaises closely with existing community agencies and is grateful for the support and help offered by these agencies, particularly the Speleological Research Group who have been able to provide expertise in leading groups of our children in caving expeditions.

In addition to residential camps, great use was made of equipment the Department has accumulated over the years, particularly canoeing and archery equipment. A number of day visits were also made to facilities provided by the Forestry Department. These permit the use of State Forests for recreational purposes and the Department appreciates the assistance and advice that has been given by the Forestry Department in this regard. The Department has been able to acquire the use of a portion of the facilities of the old State Immigration Hostel at Point Walter. A section of that camp has been allocated for Community Welfare purposes, the remainder being used by the Teacher Education Authority as a physical education camp. Throughout the year, the Department has conducted a number of residential camps at that facility and has used it as the headquarters for its other camping activities.

In youth activities and other aspects of its work the Department maintains close liaison with the Community Recreation Council and is grateful for the co-operation and assistance given by the officers of that Council.

#### **Homemaker Service**

The homemaker service aims to fulfill a social welfare function in providing a planned, goal-directed approach to the needs of families who require assistance to establish the homemaking skills necessary for them to satisfy the needs of each family member and enjoy their independence in the community.

The stated goal of the programme is to assist disadvantaged families by passing on to them, or enabling them to utilise, skills which will allow them to experience an improved standard of living. In this context, "standard of living" is regarded in its widest sense and incorporates all aspects of an individual's life style in relationship to his own desires and his views on the quality of life.

Homemakers are employed throughout the metropolitan area and in all major country centres. Over the past twelve months, the number of homemakers has increased from 75 to 155, permitting the extension of the service from its original clientele of Aboriginal families to any families in the community who lack the basic homemaking skills. This expansion has placed greater demands on field staff of the Department who are required to supervise the activities of the homemakers. As the operation of the programme depends entirely upon adequate supervision being exercised by field staff, further increases in most areas will not be possible unless the work load of staff can be effectively decreased.

Due to an increase of finances allocated to the operation of the service during 1972/73, attention was devoted to the important area of training homemakers. Although metropolitan staff have been receiving on-going training for the past three years, country homemakers have been neglected in this respect.

The introductory courses which were held in each country division in the past three months mark the beginning of a continuing programme which will be held at a local level and will be planned to meet the needs of each group of homemakers.



A positive development in recent months has been the formation of group activities and the growth of community centres, incorporated in which has been a home training emphasis. This group focus has led to an increase in self-respect and identity in several communities of Aboriginal clients and has motivated them to assume an interest in their own affairs, increasing their confidence and ability to relate to the wider community.

The priority for the next twelve months is seen as a consolidation of the growth which has occurred over the past year. This requires a comprehensive overall evaluation of the programme to provide direction for future involvement and to indicate areas which require a different approach. Training programmes will also continue throughout the State in an endeavour to improve the expertise of the homemakers in all areas of their involvement with clients.

As a programme contributing to the welfare needs of the community, the homemaker service over the past twelve months has improved in efficiency and scope, and it is intended that the next year will see a further concentration on the aspects in which the programme is deficient. The current figure of 22 Aboriginal homemakers will be increased, through a personal approach to members of the Aboriginal community, and the supervision of the homemakers improved, and techniques of working with clients in the teaching role more clearly defined. It is anticipated that through such measures the programme will more closely meet the needs of the client families and of the community.

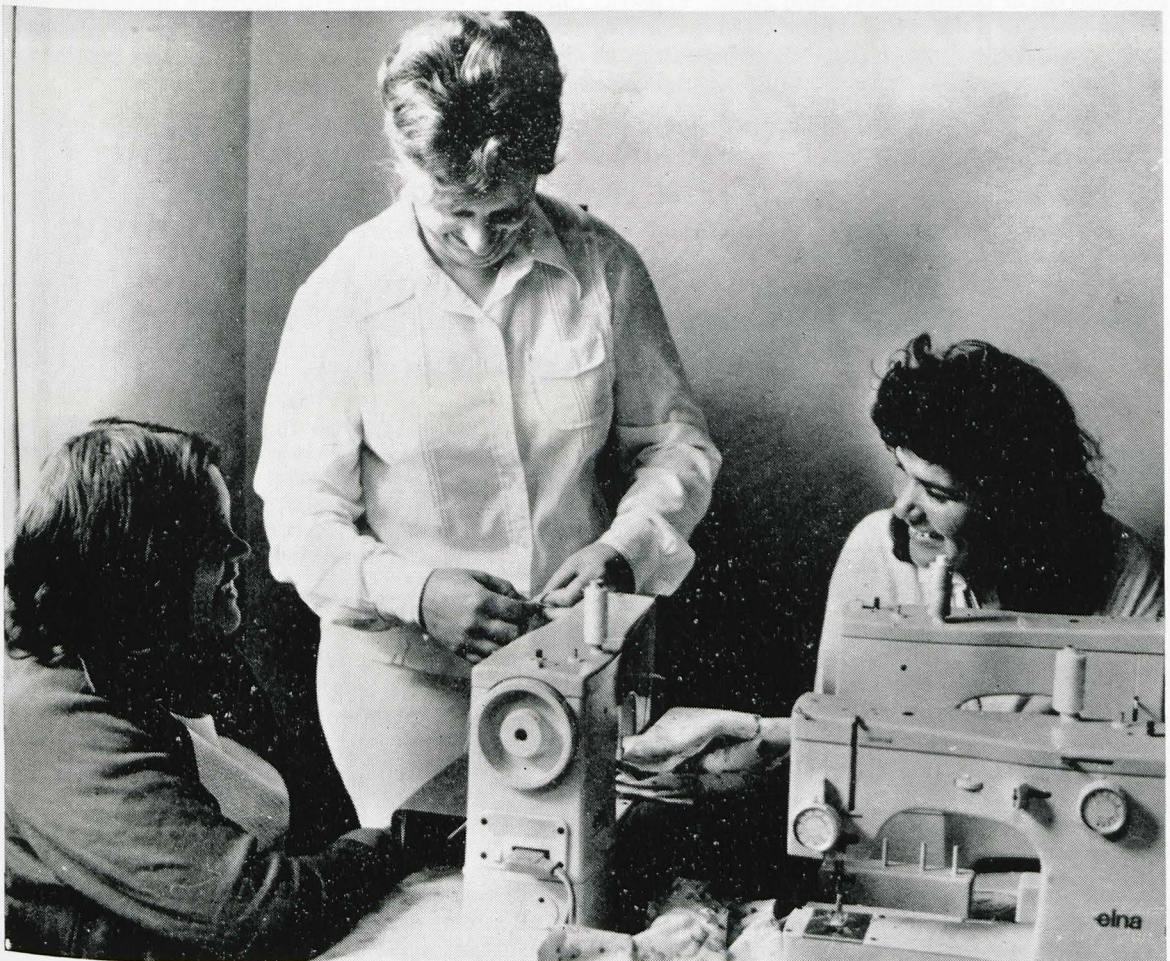


Photo by courtesy of West Australian Newspapers Ltd.

### **Clinical Psychology**

A total of 23 clinical psychologists and psychologists are employed in the Department. Of these, seven are currently in administrative positions either in Head Office or as Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents in institutions. As such, they have responsibility for planning and policy, and for staff training and organisation.

Some psychologists are located in Departmental institutions where their work includes the psychological assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. They advise other staff in the care, management and treatment of children, and assist in training programmes for staff in both Departmental and private institutions. Under the direction of psychologists, research and evaluation projects are undertaken in institutional settings.

Psychologists also work in community settings. They are attached to metropolitan divisional offices where they carry out assessment and treatment programmes and act as consultants. As staffing permits, psychological services are being extended into country areas and all regions throughout the State are being visited as regularly as possible. A psychologist is now located in Bunbury.



Psychologists in various settings carry out a wide range of other duties. For example, they participate in case conferences, provide reports at the request of the Children's Court, act as consultants for the Adoptions Branch, advise and co-operate with other staff, teachers and parents in the management of cases, and supervise students in clinical psychology in their practicum placements. They also instruct medical students, student nurses and child care certificate students during practicum visits to child care institutions. Talks on psychological subjects are given to a variety of community groups. Psychologists also participate in a wide range of committees which at the request of Departmental administration study various problems and submit suggestions and recommendations.

With the development of specialist sections within the Department, psychological staff will now have the opportunity to develop special skills in particular areas such as community based delinquency and fostering programmes.

### Child Life Protection

Now in its fifth year of operation, this Special Unit staffed by three social workers and one working part-time has continued to disseminate information and knowledge gained from experience to both the community at large and Departmental officers. Emphasis has been laid on ways to recognise the presence of, or potential for, child abuse. District officers have been able to engage in discussion with the judiciary and the medical profession in country areas and to inform them of the skilled professional services available through the Department to these children and their families, both in legal protection and treatment, and in prevention of potential child abuse.

In 1972/73, the Unit visited and evaluated the family situation in 100 families where reports of possible maltreatment had been received. These investigations involved 121 children.

Protective legal action was taken in the Children's Court in respect of 20 of these children, as follows :—

Neglect application made by Department for Community Welfare—granted	15
Neglect application made by Police—granted	2
Neglect application made by Police—child placed on probation	1
Child over 6 years who had come under notice of the Unit in infancy—application granted	1
Child over 6 years who had come under notice of the Unit in infancy—committed at the request of parents	1
	<hr/>
	20

As at 30th June, 1973, seven of these children were in the care of their parents. In the other cases, the children were in foster homes or institutions with close contact maintained between child and parents with the goal of the child's return to his home wherever possible and appropriate.

The number of referrals or reports to the Unit of suspected inflicted injuries to a child has not increased as markedly as in previous years and the number of applications made to the Children's Court to declare a child neglected has remained at the same level as last year. This is attributed to

- (a) the increased knowledge and confidence of the Unit is diagnosis and prediction in conjunction with Princess Margaret Hospital;
- (b) the increased confidence of parents in seeking help; and
- (c) the parents' willingness to co-operate with the help offered.

Where parents remain hostile and unreceptive to the dangers facing their child and themselves, it is essential that legal protection be sought for the child.

Seminars held at Port Hedland, Bunbury and Medina/Rockingham were designed to highlight some of the difficulties faced by socially and emotionally isolated parents with young children, particularly the highly mobile nuclear family with little support, and to suggest that the community examines ways in which these at-risk families could be reached and helped at times of crisis.

Inter-professional seminars and discussions have led to closer co-operation with Child Health Services and Mental Health Services.

A preliminary report on the operation of the Unit, which is unique in Australia, was made available to Directors of Child Welfare and social workers in other States. It is hoped this may encourage discussion among interested agencies and persons which will eventually lead to improved communication between these services, thus offering protection and assistance to these children and their families wherever they may choose to live and travel within Australia.

### Drug Abuse

The above Unit is staffed by one social worker located in Willmar House. Prime functions of the Unit at present are assessment and supervision of juvenile drug users, counselling of parents concerned about their children's involvement with drugs, maintenance of statistical records, disbursement of information on drug abuse to other Departmental field officers and liaison with other agencies functioning in the drug field.



Forty-one referrals have been made to the drug abuse social worker over the last twelve months, an increase of 24 over the preceding year. Marihuana remains by far the most frequently used drug being involved in 26 cases, while LSD use was responsible for seven referrals. Other substances used were morphine, Pethidine, Palfium, anti-travel sickness tablets and petrol; however, admitted (or claimed) drug use by the children concerned covered a much broader spectrum including cocaine, Omnopon, opium, barbiturates, amphetamines, heroin, Valium, Mandrax, mescaline and Avil.

Marihuana smoking appears to be a sub-cultural norm for many well-adjusted youngsters and to a lesser extent LSD fits this pattern, however more disturbed young people are moving into the "scene", sometimes consuming any substance available. Drug addiction and narcotics abuse, apart from occasional use of morphine and its synthetic relative pethidine, are still only rarely encountered amongst the young persons who come to the attention of the Department.

## ADOPTIONS

On 1st July, 1972, the amendments passed in 1971 together with the new Rules for the Adoption of Children Act came into operation. The amendments brought in several significant changes to the Department's responsibilities and procedures. The principal changes were :—

- (1) The addition of a new section which stated that the welfare and interests of the child should be regarded as the paramount consideration.
- (2) Emphasis was laid on the desirability of husband and wife jointly adopting a child, however some restrictions covering the making of orders in favour of one person only have been relaxed.
- (3) The Director's rights and responsibilities of guardianship were stated. Among the responsibilities was the requirement that the Director should provide, in writing, to the Court his opinion as to whether the applicants were proper persons to adopt a child.
- (4) The age of majority was reduced to 18 years of age and certain other amendments were made to age limitations to allow for much more flexibility in the operation of the Act.

One effect of these amendments has been to simplify and reduce the amount of work required to prepare the documents for each application to Court. Applications are now prepared more rapidly and the period that clients have to wait to make application, after placement of a child for adoption, is being reduced.

The strengthening of both the applications and typing sections of the Branch during the year has also assisted considerably in quicker execution of the work involved.

The fall in the number of babies made available for adoption, mentioned in the Child Welfare Department report of 1972, has continued. This trend is evident all over Australia and in many other countries. The reason for the decrease is that more unmarried mothers are keeping their children. The significant factor in this appears to be a change in the community's attitude towards the expectant and unmarried mother and, more importantly, the unmarried mother's own perception of her acceptance in the community.

The number of babies placed for adoption by the Department climbed to a peak in 1970/1971 when 492 babies were placed. For the next 12 months the number dropped to 448 and this year the Department has only placed 342.

The drop has caused a lengthening in the period of time applicants must wait to have a child placed with them. The Department now has many families waiting for a child and, if the present trend continues, it will become increasingly difficult for some families to adopt at all. Some of the Eastern States agencies have closed their adoption lists completely and they are expected to be closed for at least two years. In Western Australia we are not yet in such a desperate situation but, as the downward trend in the supply of babies has become evident and as the number of persons applying to adopt continues to rise in relation to the growth in population, this Department has introduced a set of criteria which must be met before applicants can be assessed for approval. These criteria relate to age, ability to have children, length of time applicants have been married, the number of children they have and the length of time they have been and intend to remain in Australia.

One of the functions of the Branch has been to provide a counselling service for unmarried pregnant girls. The counselling aims to help the girl sort out her own feeling regarding her expected child and to provide information about the services available through the Department, and private agencies, so that she makes an informed and realistic decision whether to place the child for adoption or whether to keep it.

During the year, the Department in conjunction with King Edward Memorial Hospital and their visiting geneticist, Dr. Hockey, standardised interviewing techniques and the assessment of mothers in order to obtain a more complete genetic background of babies subsequently made available for adoption.



During the year the Branch decided that, as a matter of policy, strenuous attempts should be made to contact all putative fathers. It is too early to give definite figures on the success rate but the results so far have been reasonably good. Putative fathers have also been asked to co-operate in supplying genetic information.

The temporary foster scheme which was introduced in 1971 to provide better care for babies awaiting placement for adoption is still in operation and is proving to be a valuable contribution to the Branch's efforts.

The Branch can see clearly some areas in which it can improve its services and increase its efficiency. Next year it is hoped to introduce new techniques in the assessment of adopting parents through group sessions. It needs to develop an after-placement service for adoptive parents who require help. There is a lack of early contact and knowledge and specialised after-care services for those unmarried mothers who decide to keep their babies. New approaches will be needed to attract more applicants, including Aboriginal parents for children of Aboriginal descent.

The number of staff on the field section of the Branch has fluctuated widely during the year and again we have had a considerable turnover. The staff has a structure of ten permanent field officers and for some months of the year the number of those actually employed dropped to six. At the beginning of the year all the field officers were female but now it is encouraging to find that there are two males on the staff and we hope to see more in the future.

The Branch is still situated at 45 Havelock Street, West Perth, which is an old two-storey house. Each Field Officer requires a separate office which can also be used as an interviewing room. At present however there are two main offices, each shared by five Field Officers for general office routine, and only two interviewing rooms shared by all ten. The clerical section also suffers from this gross overcrowding and it is hoped that in the near future better accommodation will be provided.

The functions of the Adoptions Branch are becoming more complex and it is becoming increasingly necessary for us to seek information from specialists in other disciplines. Over the year we have received particular help and medical advice from Professor McDonald and the Medical Board at Princess Margaret Hospital, Professor Kakulas of Royal Perth Hospital and Dr. Newnham of the Public Health Department. We would like to express our gratitude towards them.

*Statistics for the Year Ending 30th June, 1973*

Adoption Orders Granted						Departmental	Non-Departmental
1. Status Prior to Adoption:—							
Ex-nuptial children	....	....	....	....	....	509	121
Legitimate children	....	....	....	....	....	29	58
Total	....	....	....	....	....	538	179
2. Relationship to Adoptive Parents:—							
Natural Parents	....	....	....	....	....	10	66
Relatives	....	....	....	....	....	3	8
Unrelated Persons	....	....	....	....	....	525	105
Total	....	....	....	....	....	538	179
3. Age of Children at Adoption:—							
Under one year	....	....	....	....	....	17	72
One year	....	....	....	....	....	203	27
2-5 years	....	....	....	....	....	291	19
6-12 years	....	....	....	....	....	21	53
13-15 years	....	....	....	....	....	2	7
16-20 years	....	....	....	....	....	4	1
21 plus years	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Total	....	....	....	....	....	538	179

Of the total of 538 Adoption Orders granted on Departmental applications:—

19 of the children were wards

3 of these wards were Aboriginal or Part/Aboriginal

Orders were granted for five Aboriginal or Part/Aboriginal non-wards.



## CHILDREN'S COURTS

The metropolitan Children's Courts continue to deal with large numbers of charges.

A roster of lady members enables a member to assist the Special Magistrate in the conduct of the Courts

The metropolitan members are:—

Mrs D. DETTMAN, J.P.  
Mrs J. TROTMAN  
Mrs K. A. RIGG, J.P.  
Mrs L. A. M. SMITH, J.P.  
Mrs G. A. GORDON  
Mrs D. R. LEVINSON  
Mrs E. M. HANSON

Special Magistrates are:—

Mr G. R. HITCHIN  
Mr W. FELLOWES

Where possible, the Department for Community Welfare is represented in each instance and officers provide reports and information concerning particular children who are appearing in Court.

The Court is indebted to Doctor R. McKinnon, Psychiatrist at the Child Guidance Clinic and many other Clinical Psychologists and professional workers who spend considerable time with children referred to them by the Court.

### Traffic

Almost 300 young people have been referred to the National Safety Council since 1971, as a result of the scheme inaugurated by that Council. We are indebted for the co-operation of the Executive Director, Mr B. Boulton, his Council and members of his training team.

In some instances, the Court refers certain offenders to the Council for corrective training, and as a result more efficient drivers have appeared on the road following the Court proceedings.

### Disposal of Cases

The Child Welfare Act required the Court to consider the welfare of a child when disposing with its case. It is therefore an important factor for a child, if possible, to proceed through its childhood without being labelled with criminal conviction. Use is made of the Act in relation to the dismissal without conviction, dismissal where parent has punished, and Probation.

In most of these instances it entails supervision by Community Welfare Officers, which is time consuming. It has been felt with the affluence of most young people these days that some attempt should be made to compensate those injured by their actions and this is in keeping with advanced thoughts of people overseas. Accordingly, in some instances the Court has been awarding small amounts of compensation towards the cost of security services, waste of time by Police Officers, deprivation of the use of an article stolen, loss by the community of use of facilities, and as a result a large number of young people have paid small amounts of compensation by weekly amounts in these instances. This form of treatment is felt to be effective. It reinforces dismissal without conviction, saves Field Officer time and is in keeping with the financial position of children involved.

### Drugs

Drug experimentation and usage is making some contribution to the numbers appearing in Court. In some instances, "dependency" has been detected. There appears to be some correlation between initial use of "soft" drugs with ultimate dependency on "hard" drugs. In each instance where a person has admitted to the use of "hard" drugs, he or she has informed the Court that they commenced with "soft" drugs in the initial contact with the "scene". Recently a youngster of 14 was before Court—he had been picked up in a dazed condition; he had obtained tablets at a school dance where an adult person had passed them around free. He later received a further handout from the same person but, when he approached this person a third time, payment was demanded for supply.

Consideration should be given for the provision of a suitable treatment centre or unit for temporary admissions. It is a concern to members of this Court as children who are implicated in drugs and remanded to Longmore for want of a better or more suitable place quickly assume fictitious importance among other inmates—this is harmful.

### Alcohol

Although drunkenness in itself is not a crime, we must consider the effects of drink among young persons who appear in Court. There is evidence of loss of control, sometimes ending in rape, robbery with violence, breaking and entering, stealing, assaults, wilful or malicious damage to public or private property or unlawful car use.

The ease with which young people can gain access to liquor is of concern. Whilst the Liquor Act provides for penalties of \$50 for being on licensed premises or obtaining liquor, numbers of young people are being involved in breaking the law. The Liquor Branch patrols licensed premises frequently and in most instances offer the young persons involved the opportunity of attending a lecture in lieu of prosecution. There are still numbers of young people appearing in Court for breaches of the Liquor Act. Proprietors of licensed clubs, hotels and bottle shops, it would appear, are not exercising sufficient control over staff who in many instances have served young persons under 18 years of age without question. Provision is made for licensees to request a person to sign a certificate as to age, and young people who have been questioned by the Court have not been interrogated in this manner when the offence was committed. It is a difficult task for Police to adequately supervise all licensed premises.



The proprietors, licensees and staff should accept a reasonable share of responsibility as, after all, they are dependant on the industry for their livelihood. Young people are attracted by entertainment offered by bands and individuals. The venues previously available, such as dance halls, have disappeared. In their stead we have licensed restaurants, clubs and hotel premises.

Where are young people, who are under 18, to go for their entertainment or how can they mix with a peer group where some members are over 18? They are affluent, mobile and restless—coffee lounges and traditional youth centres are, to some of them, “old hat”. Perhaps some research could be performed within the community so that some bright suggestions could be provided as an immediate alternative.

**Children's Courts**

Facilities at Perth continue to be adequate and suitable, and with the additional staff provided, the Court is able to operate in a more efficient manner.

Since arrangements were made for the use of the Council Chamber in the Town Hall at Midland, in which the Court sits each week, much improvement has been noted. The Council has recently renovated the Chambers which now look quite attractive.

At Fremantle, the situation is the reverse. Up until this year, the Children's Court business was performed in the Local Court, in the main Court building. However, with an upsurge of business at Fremantle, this building was no longer available to the Children's Court and a transfer was arranged to Crane House. The conditions in this building are cramped. On the days the Court sits, the officers of the Community Welfare Department are unable to interview clients. The rooms lack ventilation and, owing to the nature of the partitions, Court proceedings can be overheard in adjoining waiting rooms. It is understood that some relief may be offered in the future, but with present conditions the situation during the approaching summer will be intolerable.

**JUVENILE PANEL**

**Metropolitan**

The scheme of dealing with some first offenders by having them appear with their parents before a Panel, which consists of a Community Welfare Officer and a retired Superintendent of Police, instead of sending the children before the Children's Courts, continues to function satisfactorily. It deals with offenders under the age of 16 years.

Once again the number of children dealt with by the Panel has increased. Last year there was a total of 934 children, being 502 boys and 432 girls seen. This year's total is 1,075; 635 boys and 440 girls.

Panels are held at Perth, Fremantle and Midland. The following table gives the figures for the children seen at these venues for this year.

	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Totals
Boys .....	424	177	34	635
Girls .....	303	111	26	440
Totals .....	727	288	60	1,075

A table showing the age range of the boys and girls who were seen indicates that more boys offend at an earlier age than girls, but from 13 years of age upwards the girls increase their number considerably.

*Age of Children Appearing*

Age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Totals
Boys .....	1	11	20	52	76	95	149	144	87	635
Girls .....	.....	2	5	1	18	51	125	136	92	440

**Country**

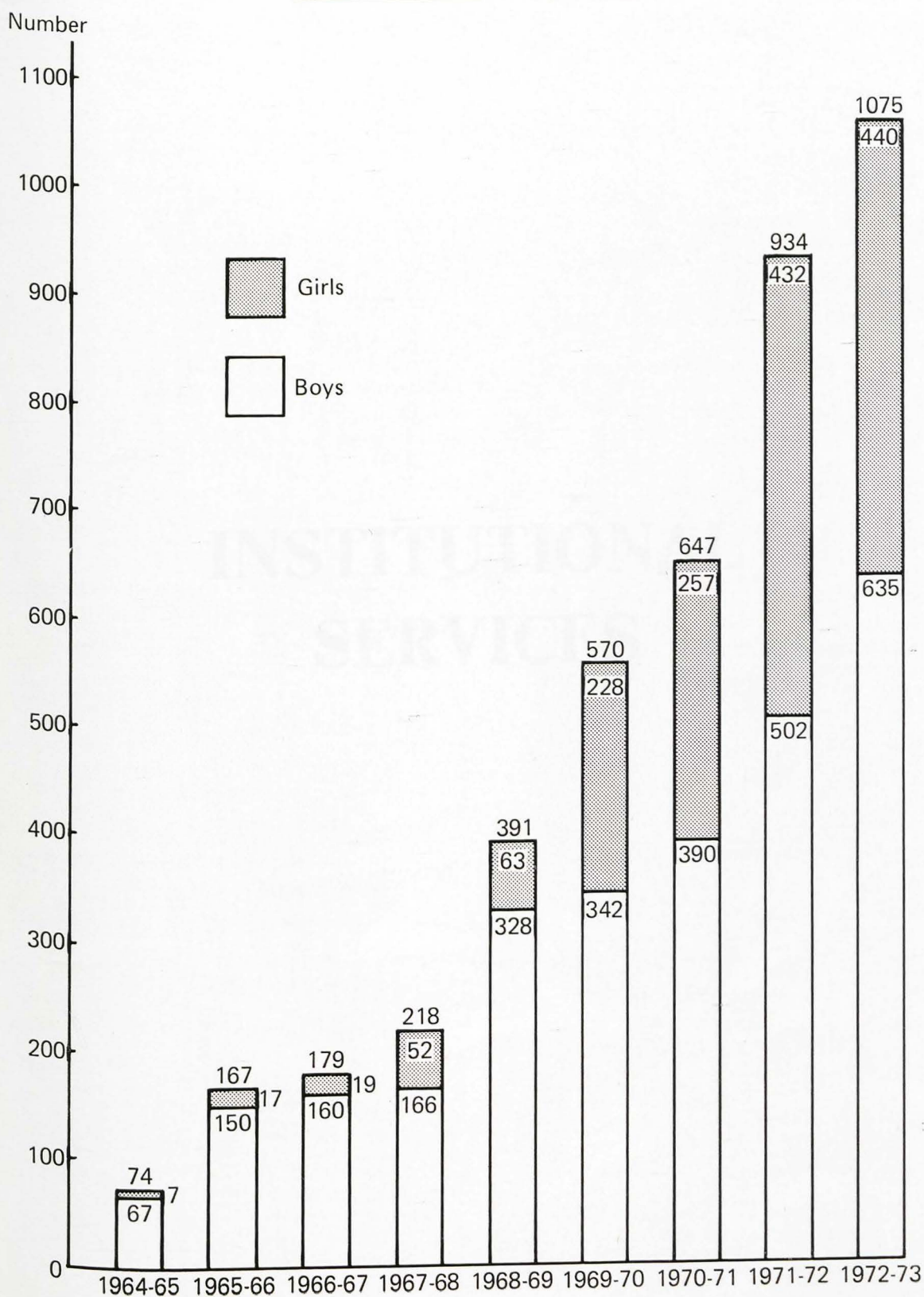
In contrast to the Metropolitan Area there was a decrease in the number of children dealt with by Panels in the Country. For the previous year there was a total of 104 children seen, but for the year under review the figure dropped to 69.

The following table shows the number of children seen at each country centre.

Country Centres	Boys	Girls	Totals
Albany....	17	5	22
Bunbury .....	13	6	19
Collie .....	2	.....	2
Geraldton .....	3	1	4
Kalgoorlie .....	5	3	8
Katanning .....	1	.....	1
Narrogin .....	1	3	4
Northam .....	8	1	9
Total .....	50	19	69



NUMBERS AND SEX OF CHILDREN APPEARING  
BEFORE THE JUVENILE PANEL  
IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.







# INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES





## INSTITUTIONS

Though Departmental staff have continued to develop ways of caring for and treating children without requiring admission to an institution, pressure for accommodation in institutions has continued. Different methods of serving the need are constantly being tried and assessed as part of an experimental approach that is becoming increasingly general throughout the Department's institutions. In keeping with trends throughout the world, these new methods usually mean briefer periods spent by children in institutions, and a proportionately greater amount of the staff's time being spent with the child while he or she is living in the wider community. The facility of the institution can therefore be available to more children. Even more importantly, the detrimental effects of lengthy institutional placement are reduced. Progress is often found to be greater if the time spent in an institution is made up of a number of short stays with living in the community interspersed than one long stay, as has been the usual practice in the past.

Criteria for admission to different institutions are subject to some fluctuation according to need. The individual institutions' share of the Department's responsibilities is broadly outlined under the headings below. In some cases, the admission of a child to an institution is determined by an external authority, for example the admission of children who have been charged with offences by the police.

Transfer between institutions is decided through consideration of the individual case by professional staff of the Department. Discharge from institutions is usually on the decision of Departmental staff. Some discharges are through Court decisions.

There have been new techniques introduced into the Department's institutional services; there have been no new buildings opened in the year under report but some are under construction. The existing facilities are being used to better effect. Even given the present available facilities, the optimum level of treatment and of training cannot be given because children must often be discharged before their progress indicates this. The efficacy of the post-institution work is thereby diminished.

The accommodation pressures on institutions is exacerbated by the admission of children who do not require treatment in an institution, but who nevertheless must be detained in one while serving default for unpaid fines or restitution ordered by the Courts. The proper work of both assessment and training institutions is being hampered by such cases and consequent accommodation pressures.

The Department's attempts to meet the community's needs for institutional service may be summarised by grouping the various facilities under the three headings given below. Each child or family may be admitted to only one institution or moved from one to another as progress indicates. However much or little time is spent in an institution, there is often considerable work done before such a placement and, wherever the Department has the authority and the need is shown, there is further work done after discharge from the institution.

Research is accepted as high-priority work for institutional staff but the shortage of staff trained in research techniques has limited the number of projects completed. Professional staff are heavily committed to ongoing assessment and treatment work and to staff training. Despite this, a number of projects have been initiated and completed, some for publication in scientific journals.

### Temporary Care and Assessment Institutions

Institutional facilities are provided for children from three to 18 years old and, in exceptional cases, to 21 years. Children are not admitted unless alternative facilities are not available or are not adequate to the needs of the child at the time. Discharges are made as soon as the needs requiring admission have been met and suitable placement can be found.

Because of the difficulty of finding accommodation outside institutions where the required level of care and treatment can be given, many children stay in "temporary care" longer than the Department would wish. There is a continuing and increasing need for foster homes, suitable private board and high quality longer-term institutional placements.

A total of 3,492 children were admitted to temporary care and assessment institutions in the year 1972/73. Some were Wards of this Department before admission, others were committed to the Department's care by the Children's Court during their stay at the institution.

"Assessment" is used to cover the total appraisal of the child's functioning as an individual and in the contexts that are relevant to him/her, i.e. the family, the school, the employment situation, the community. Children are assessed medically, psychologically, educationally and behaviourally, and these assessments are studied in the light of the family and social context in which he or she lives. From this appraisal, plans are made to assist the child to develop to an optimal level. The family's and the community's likely interaction with the child help shape the plans made.

Plans are implemented, for the most part, after the child is discharged from the assessment institution. This is done under the supervision of social workers or welfare officers or as an initial move from the assessment centre, in a treatment institution.

Of the 3,492 children admitted, 31.2 per cent were Aborigines. This is approximately seven times the number that would be expected statistically from the proportion of Aboriginal children of that age range in Western Australia, and represents a concentrated area of need for community and institutional services. There has been some change in the proportions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children admitted to temporary care and assessment institutions, but the significance of this change is not yet apparent. Further changes may be expected as an outcome of the recent increase in welfare work with Aborigines.



## BRIDGEWATER CHILD CARE AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

### Location

Duncraig Road, Applecross.

Bridgewater is an "open" institution, comprised of nine cottages, administration and professional services block and other facilities, on an 11-acre site. Local schools, shops and river beaches are within easy reach and are used by children staying at Bridgewater.

### Function

Short-Term care for children from three to 18 years of age, where circumstances demand placement in alternative accommodation from where they have been living. In some cases, only temporary care is required but for about half the children admitted a full assessment of the child and the family's functioning is carried out. Children whose history includes offences are not admitted.

### Capacity

One hundred and seven boys and girls accommodated in nine cottage units.

### Population

#### (1) Admissions during year:—

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	61	199	260
Girls	60	263	323
Total	121	462	583

#### (2) School/Employment Distribution:—

	Per Cent
Pre-school	19
Primary school	34
Secondary school	31
Employment	16

#### (3) Length of Stay:—

Less than three months	513
More than three months	70

#### (4) Reason for Admission:—

Temporary care	
Wards	105
Non-Wards	174
Assessment	304
	583

#### (5) Placement on Discharge, Following Assessment:—

	Per Cent
Parents or relatives	29.7
Foster placement	32.2
Treatment institution	10.2
Other institution	23.9
Other placement	4.0

### Comments on Population

Comparison of this data with that available from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics on the age-sex distribution of the total Western Australian population indicates that fewer pre-school children and more adolescents are admitted than would be expected statistically. This possibly reflects a preference to place young children in emergency foster placements and a tendency for some adolescents to be admitted by reason of their own behaviour and not only as a consequence of family circumstances. Future data collection will attempt to test these hypotheses.

Almost half the children were admitted for short-term care following domestic crises or pending further foster placement. Full assessments and case conferences were carried out for the other 304 children. Case conference planning for three-quarters of these children emphasised placement in a normal home, although difficulty in locating suitable foster placements resulted in a higher proportion of institutional placements than were planned. More than half of the actual institutional placements were to treatment facilities or cottage-type institutions.

### Current and Proposed Developments

The design and implementation of research programmes has not progressed at a satisfactory level due to professional staff shortages. The most significant investigation concerned abscondings. A pilot study has provided a basis for a more accurate and detailed method of recording such incidents and reliable research data is now being generated.



Community contact has been extended through involvement with local youth groups and a more widely publicised Open Day. Service clubs, charitable organisations, entertainment houses, parks and sporting and youth organisations have continued to provide important sources of outings and activities.

The Department's Youth Organiser has also provided valuable assistance, particularly through camps and the popular mini-bike programme.

Schooling continues to be the most persistent institutional problem. Difficulties outlined in the report for 1971/72 have continued and there is now more emphasis placed on transporting selected children to their own schools. However, this is an inefficient solution and the provision of schooling facilities on site is a most urgent requirement.

## MOUNT LAWLEY RECEPTION HOME

### Location

Walcott Street, Mount Lawley.

The Reception Home is an "open" institution, based on a large suburban house with modifications and extensions making it suitable for the care and assessment of children. Some play areas around the institution and a large playing field next to it are used. Local schools and other community facilities are used by the children staying at the Reception Home.

### Function

Short-term care for children from seven to 18 years of age, where the circumstances demand placement in institutional care but where a security institution is not considered necessary. In some cases full assessment and planning are necessary, in others only short term care. Most children admitted are teenagers, either students or working children.

### Capacity

Forty-four boys and girls, accommodated in different areas of a large single building.

### Population

#### (1) Admissions during year:—

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	271	503	774
Girls	222	213	435
Total	493	716	1,209

#### (2) School/Employment Distribution:—

	Per Cent
Primary school	15
Secondary school	37
Employment	48

#### (3) Length of stay:—

Less than one week	421
One week to one month	419
One month to three months	270
More than three months	99

#### (4) Reason for admission:—

Temporary care only	29
Placement breakdown; for replacement	634
Court action (charge application)	104
Assessment	395
Other reason	47
Total	1,209

#### (5) Placement on discharge, following assessment:—

	Per Cent
Parents or relatives	39.8
Foster placement	11.3
Institution	40.3
Live-in employment	3.1
Hospital	5.5

### Comments on Population

A little over half the children admitted were taken into temporary care because a crisis in their former living placement meant they had to leave there, at least temporarily. While, in contemporary thinking, this does not necessarily indicate a "failure" or an inadvisable former placement, it does reflect the difficulty Departmental staff meet in finding suitable placements for children when they are no longer



able to live with their parents. Some "breakdowns" were from foster placements, some from relatives, from the child's own family, or from a range of institutions. A full study of problems involved in foster placement, together with the increasing expertise in management and care in private institutions in Western Australia may help reduce the number of apparent placement "breakdowns".

The population of the children is becoming older, 85 per cent being teenagers. This requires more daily movement of children out of the institution building to secondary school or to work. Reasons for the median age increase are thought to be the same as for Bridgewater, reported earlier.

#### *Current and Proposed Developments*

There has been a steep increase in the proportion of children fully assessed at Mount Lawley Reception Home, thus shifting the work of the institution from primarily a "holding" centre to one with firmer positive commitments to the children.

Because interaction with the wider community assists in the development of the children, the frequency and variety of outings was maintained, though the number of social evenings to which friends and families were invited were reduced owing to extensive repairs and renovations being carried out during the first half of the year.

### LONGMORE REMAND AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

#### *Location*

Adie Road, Bentley.

Longmore is a security institution, expressly built for the purposes of teenage remand and assessment, with accommodation in single rooms in wings off a central courtyard. Large activity rooms off the central courtyard provide opportunity for assessment, schooling where applicable, and recreation.

Children attend court from Longmore but, with few other exceptions, do not leave the building until they are discharged.

#### *Function*

The Department's main reception centre for children from 13 to 18 years of age who have been charged with offences, or for whom a security setting is considered temporarily necessary. Where the Court's action passes the responsibility for planning and treatment of the child over to the Department, a full assessment of the child and family is made. Children on remand to the Court and some serving default in lieu of payment of Court-imposed fines are also accommodated at Longmore.

#### *Capacity*

Thirty-six boys and 24 girls, accommodated in single rooms.

#### *Population*

##### (1) Admissions during year:—

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	324	994	1,318
Girls	147	235	382
Total	471	1,229	1,700

##### (2) School/Employment Distribution:—

	Per Cent
Primary school	—
Secondary school	26
Employment	74

##### (3) Length of stay:—

Less than one week	966
One week to one month	480
One month to three months	246
More than three months	8

##### (4) Reason for admission:—

Almost all children admitted were the subject of Court action.

Major offences are grouped as under; "other reasons" includes applications to the Court.

#### Offences—

Property offences	683
Motor vehicle offences	388
Offences against good order	301
Default warrants, other Court action	211
Other reasons	117
	1,700
Assessments on above children	474



(5) Placement on discharge, following assessment:—

	Per Cent
Parents or relatives .....	33·3
Foster placement/private board .....	10·8
Treatment institution .....	38·0
Hostel .....	10·3
Live-in employment .....	3·6
Other placement .....	4·0

*Comments on Population*

The number of admissions to Longmore decreased from 1,891 in the previous financial year to 1,700 for the year under report. The decrease is thought to be more due to changes in the Department's management of teenage offenders than to a decrease in their numbers in the community. There were significant changes in the proportions of the two races represented. While the number of Caucasian boys and girls admitted rose by 23 to 1,229, there was a significant reduction in the number of Aborigines admitted, from 685 to 471. The number of Aboriginal girls admitted was almost half that of last year and the number of Aboriginal boys admitted was down by one third. The reasons for this decrease in Aborigines being admitted to Longmore are not clear cut, but probably relate to a shift in Government policy and practice regarding Aborigines.

Only 474 children were assessed of the 1,700 admitted. The remainder were made up of adolescents awaiting appearance in the Children's Court, on default warrants, or held pending the finding of a suitable placement. Thus Longmore continues to function more as a "holding" than as an "assessment" centre. A full assessment programme takes about two weeks, after which there is thought to be no significant gain in information available. The holding of children who do not need to be in Longmore for its central functions of remand or assessment causes much of the wastage of time and staff effort. The length of the post-assessment holding time is due in part to the shortage of suitable placements after the decision to place elsewhere has been made (see "Length of Stay" table above).

*Current and Proposed Developments*

These have been severely restricted by the demands for the day-to-day work of assessment and the increasing involvement of psychologists in work with children and families outside institutions.

Further surveys of the Longmore population have been done and show that, contrary to some published material and to general belief, teenage offenders are not very different to the general population of teenagers in sensory acuity or in reading ability.

The development of a staff rating scale has continued. Assessment procedures have been improved with the introduction of a "behaviour checklist" which has helped standardise and objectify reports of the children's behaviour whilst in Longmore. A further development during this year has been the commencement of research into some of the techniques and procedures used in assessment at Longmore.

Such evaluation of methods and techniques is seen as of major importance in an assessment centre.

**TREATMENT INSTITUTIONS**

Where the assessment carried out in a Departmental institution indicates that institution-based behavioural treatment is necessary, the child is transferred to the recommended institution. From this point, the child's experiences are planned by that institution's staff. Such experiences while in the institution are planned to bear similarity and relevance to the experiences that he or she will meet later on, so maximising chances of learning appropriate behaviour. Treatment methods are becoming further removed from the "traditional" institutional training methods, as staff apply the findings of reported research, and their own, to the institutional programmes. The increase in professional staff in treatment institutions has made this development possible.

The developing view of treatment is that, before a child can live a responsible life (that is, attend school or work regularly, remain reasonably stable in employment and residence, not offend, and so on), a number of periods may be spent in the institution's buildings—security or open sections. These periods may include daily school attendance or work away from the institution. The different periods spent at the institution are regarded as part of a continuing process of treatment, interspersed with further treatment while living in the community. This further treatment is carried out by, or under the supervision of, institution staff. Increasingly, the child participates in planning his or her own programme and is given more responsibility for carrying it out.

The emphasis in institutional treatment in the past has been on the training of juvenile offenders. Recently, this Department established a treatment centre for behaviourally disturbed children of primary school age, and plans soon to open a further treatment centre for younger children whose problems are most obvious in the school setting.

The institutions established for juvenile offenders do not emphasise the "offending" aspect of the child's behaviour as much as in the past. They are being seen as treatment centres where problem behaviour that does not necessarily include offences can be changed. Nevertheless, because of the Department's mandate to reduce the likelihood of offending in juveniles, offenders must form the majority of the admissions to treatment centres for adolescents.



## McCall Centre

### Location

Lincoln Street, Highgate.

McCall Centre continues to function in temporary premises. These provide accommodation for 14 children and a treatment setting including classrooms. The location has not been conducive to a full treatment programme, but the experience has helped in the planning of permanent premises. Accommodation for 20 children is planned. When a child's progress indicates this possible, attendance at a local school is arranged.

### Population

New admissions	....	....	....	....	....	....	11	{ Caucasian 10 Aboriginal 1
Readmissions	....	....	....	....	....	....	Not separately recorded	
Age range	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 to 12 years	
Length of stay	....	....	....	....	....	....	270 days (average)	

Problem behaviours treated cover a wide range of the kind usually referred to as indicating "emotional disturbance". The most commonly found characteristics of the population on admission are that they are retarded in physical abilities and they are educationally backward, though neither of these factors by themselves would justify treatment at the Centre. The most general criterion for admission to McCall Centre is the presence of problem behaviour which precludes any other placement. Children are admitted after close individual scrutiny of their behaviour and history.

### Treatment Programmes

These are devised according to the demands of the individual case and the potentialities seen in that child and family. Various theoretical and practical approaches are attempted, without commitment to any one therapeutic framework. Several professional disciplines contribute to the treatment, proportionally according to the needs of each individual case.

Parents or substitute parents are involved in the training programme as much as possible. This demands considerable work directly with these parents to teach them management skills that are lacking. The aim is to return the child as quickly as possible to the community, including a normal school.

Because of the educational retardation of most children, remedial teaching is provided. When the child is able, he or she attends a local school daily from the Centre, making discharge from full institutional care a more gradual and manageable process. After discharge, continuing assistance and supervision is provided for two years.

### Developments

The move to the permanent location will provide better facilities, both for treatment of children within the institutional setting and amplified assistance to their parents, particularly while the child is still at the Centre. Additionally, training of suitable people to become foster parents for children from the Centre is planned; without this training, there are severe limitations on the treatment that can be given to children without parents or whose parents are unable to fill this role effectively.

A continuing survey is providing the data for developing norms for physical abilities in Western Australian children, against which the ability levels of the Centre's population may be measured. This will provide standards for the development of physical skills in the training programmes devised by professional staff at McCall Centre. The technologically better-equipped new Centre will assist staff training as well as treatment for the children.

A practicum placement for trainee teachers specialising in remedial teaching is provided by the Centre.

## Hillston

### Location

Stoneville Road, Stoneville.

Hillston accommodates 60 boys in the main institution building (in individual rooms) and a further six boys in cottage accommodation. It is an open institution, set in 367 acres of land 26 miles from Perth.

Most treatment is done within this setting, but some school boys attend local schools or work away from the property.

### Population

New admissions	....	....	....	....	....	....	128	{ Caucasians 81 Aboriginal 47
Readmissions	....	....	....	....	....	....	117	
Age range	....	....	....	....	....	....	12 to 18 years	
Length of stay	....	....	....	....	....	....	84 days (average)	



Most boys admitted to Hillston have been charged with offences. Some of these have been fined by the Court and subsequently admitted to Hillston to serve a period of default in lieu of payment of the fine. Most boys, however, have been placed at Hillston as the outcome of an assessment period in one of the Department's institutions.

The proportion of Aboriginal boys admitted was lower than for previous years (30 per cent of all admissions).

### *Treatment and Training Programmes*

The need areas found in some of the children admitted to Hillston contraindicates specific problem treatment. Where specific treatment is indicated, the institution is becoming increasingly able to provide this. Hillston has had to develop new ways of managing the high number of boys whose assessment indicates placement there, and these have included the wider and earlier use of placement in the community while still under the care of Hillston staff, with readmissions to the institution when the boy's behaviour indicates this necessary—with or without offences. The figures for the year's after-care service are given:—

	Per Cent
No further offences, no other breakdown ....	52.6
No further offences but returned to Hillston for other reasons of behaviour	10.5
Offended and returned to Hillston ....	18.4
Offended and placed at other DCW institution ....	13.5
Offended and imprisoned ....	5.0

The need for individual educational programmes, mostly at a remedial level, remains most evident and endeavours to expand this aspect of the programme are constantly under review. With the trend in admissions appearing to be towards younger boys and the resultant need for them to return to a formal school situation upon their release from Hillston, the need to maintain a full and satisfactory educational programme is paramount. During the year some boys living at Hillston have attended a local high school. The Education Department's guidance officers have assisted in specific programmes for boys returning to normal school situations.

Manual arts facilities are available. The construction of a new workshop complex by staff and boys has commenced. This will provide a greater opportunity to acquire skills in many trade areas, thus increasing prospects of obtaining and keeping employment after discharge.

### *Developments*

Being a farming property, Hillston allows boys to become familiar with a range of work skills, some of which can assist in employment. Training in general work habits (planning ahead, being systematic, conserving materials, working to time schedules, etc.) is regarded as the major aim. It is highly necessary for many of the Hillston population. Further training placements at the Department's property at Badgingarra are keenly sought by the boys and provide a realistic working situation in which to assess ability, reliability, self-confidence and industry. Produce from these two properties in the form of milk, eggs, butter, cream, mutton, beef, pork, and poultry to the market value of \$11,935 was used in Hillston and other metropolitan institutions. The development of a pure-bred Friesian dairy herd continues.

Participation in the local community's life is encouraged as a training measure and is appreciated by local organisations (including schools, Agricultural Society, Bush Fire Brigade, Country Women's Association). Teams from the institution have competed in local sporting events in football, cricket and basketball. The social interaction possible is valued as a part of the boys' training.

A full-time clinical psychologist was appointed during the year to assist staff in planning their treatment and training programmes for the boys.

### **Riverbank**

#### *Location*

Hamersley Road, Caversham.

Francis Street, Perth.

Riverbank accommodates 43 boys, mainly in individual rooms, in a security setting but has accommodation for other boys in non-secure settings in the grounds of the main institution and also in a hostel in the city. The programming allows for some boys to attend school or work away from the main institution and also for boys living in the community to attend Riverbank daily.

The associated hostel in Perth provides accommodation near to the employment opportunities of the city for boys who are continuing their treatment and training away from the main institution.



## Population

New admissions ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	75	{ Caucasian 51 Aboriginal 24
Readmissions ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	148	
Age range ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13 to 18 years	
Length of stay ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56 days (average)	

All boys admitted to Riverbank have been charged with offences, most following an assessment that led to such a recommendation. A few have been admitted through action in a Court other than the Children's Court, with agencies outside this Department responsible for decisions about the boys' subsequent discharge. In most cases, though, the planning of treatment and its implementation is done by Riverbank staff.

## Treatment and Training

Steep increases in the demands made on this facility in the past few years have forced changes in treatment methods that otherwise may have been introduced more gradually. Early results encourage the continuation of change. The short stay (average 56 days, compared with six months and more a couple of years ago), initially forced by pressure of numbers, may in fact be the most economical way to achieve a social "pay off", but this will require more comprehensive research. Reported research supports this move, with or without pressure of numbers.

Riverbank attempts to teach boys social accountability and suitable work habits usually within a three to four month period and does this by creating a miniature community, a replica of the wider community, with its own economy, school, employment and recreational situations. Boys are not rewarded for keeping the system quiet but for habits that contribute to their growth into useful citizens. To the extent that Riverbank succeeds in mimicking the wider community standards and values, boys will carry over their learning into their day-to-day lives later.

In early 1973, peripheral security was tightened in order to permit the creation of a relaxed therapeutic environment that would maximise the use of staff skills. The speed and ease of transition from obedience training and full trade instruction associated with long term "traditional" institutional training to the present mimic of the wider community has been remarkable. In the current system of treatment, through a series of short-term interventions, punishment is seen as a loss of liberty. Development to a non-offending, independent and responsible adult is seen as a long process requiring the right experiences to aid that process. The return of a boy to the institution for another period provides the demand to the staff to reassess his treatment.

The hostel for some of the boys who are continuing their association with Riverbank away from the main institution provides a living environment more closely simulating that of a family or of board in small hotel accommodation. Over the past year, one hundred boys have been accommodated there for varying periods of time, ideally six to eight weeks. During this time, some of the important moves on which his future behaviour will in part depend (employment, social contacts, family interactions, etc.) may be stabilised. Some boys live at the hostel while continuing attendance at the institution's school because problems associated with integration into a normal school programme have been found to be insurmountable.

Aspects of normal living that are not available in a security institution can be experienced in a setting that offers more assistance than can be found in most of the boys' homes, or in alternate places of accommodation. Relationships with families are often developed better with a gradual introduction back to full-time membership, as are also relationships with other social groups. The hostel encourages and facilitates such contacts.

## Developments

Changes that facilitated the introduction of the present techniques and programmes at Riverbank were under way before the year under report, but progress has continued. An outline of the development programmes is given:—

- (a) A point system which is aimed at shaping a boy's behaviour in a way that will benefit him when he is released on Trial Leave. Behaviours for modification include adequate work habits (e.g. being on time for work, working consistently for a pay packet at the end of a week), budgeting and if necessary delaying gratification until an item can be afforded, and learning to choose between alternatives. The point system also partially offers a way of reproducing the real world within Riverbank.

The point system has three main facets—earning, spending and fines for misbehaviour.

- (i) There are four areas in which boys earn points. Boys are "paid" at half-day intervals when they first arrive at Riverbank and work up to being paid at weekly intervals. Boys are also paid for weekend chores but as a group rather than as individuals. Payment is made according to the standard of the work done. Individual boys may also earn points on special programmes designed to meet a particular need.
- (ii) Points may be spent in a number of ways—canteen, admission to the games and TV rooms, better individual rooms, films, dances. Boys may also buy "health insurance" which ensures pay continues even if they are unable to work because of illness. Points may also be saved and exchanged for pocket money when a boy reaches Trial Leave.
- (iii) Fines for misbehaviour are used both as an external controlling device and also as a method of teaching internal control. A boy knows in advance what a given form of misbehaviour will cost him and has a chance to weigh up the cost to him versus the gain of a certain action.



- (b) The redeveloped workshops aim to reach satisfactory work habits and specific minor hand skills. Attempts have been made to develop minor industries producing goods consumed by the real world beyond the institution. Formal schooling continues to be offered to boys of appropriate age and ability to ensure their overall schooling for the year is not unduly disrupted by their offending. This "stop-gap" schooling places great demands on the ingenuity of the teachers.
- (c) The Safety Driving Instruction class was made possible through a motor firm. Staff have been trained as driving instructors. Around this course is being developed a simple motor maintenance course and boys' interest in motor vehicles is being channelled into respect for and proper use of vehicles. In this way, boys who seem to be particularly "at risk" are retrained in an area of modern living. This is highly appropriate to this population of boys, as many have committed offences with motor vehicles.
- (d) The most recent attempt to mimic the wider community is the appointment of female staff within Riverbank—a move away from the all-male staff concept within maximum security with the expectation of normalising social expectations and conduct in the boys. Local community contact has been increased with groups visiting for social and sports events. Since the boys cannot be allowed into the community except in small, well selected and controlled groups, the invitation has been extended especially to the neighbouring community to visit and help normalise the environment at Riverbank simply by their presence.

These developments will continue in an experimental, cautious and controlled way with specific experimental work being undertaken to decide the most economical use of the facility, i.e. which boys most benefit from short stay with rapid orientation towards After Care in the community.

## Nyandi

### Location

Allen Court, Bentley.

Nyandi has facilities to treat 20 teenage girls in a security setting and ten girls in a non-security cottage in the grounds of the institution. Some girls resident at the institution travel daily to school or to work from Nyandi.

### Population

New admissions	....	....	....	55	{ Caucasian 33 Aboriginal 22
Readmissions	....	....	....	....	Not separately recorded
Age range	....	....	....	....	13 to 18 years, average 15.2 years
Length of stay	....	....	....	....	46.5 days in security section (average)

Most but not all girls have been charged with offences. Others have been made Wards of this Department through an application to the Children's Court. Most girls have spent more than one period in another institution before admission to Nyandi; all have been earlier assessed in one of the Department's institutions.

Consistent with research findings, there is a significant lag between the girls' chronological ages on admission and their social, personal and academic skills.

### Treatment and Training

Because of the need for local research in the area of treatment of adolescents, particularly offenders, Nyandi staff plan as much of their treatments as possible to allow for review and research to be incorporated into the programmes.

The institution sees its task as one of decreasing a girl's deficits in skills to the point where she is more able to cope with her environment. This training is done using behaviour modification procedures, the application of systematic consequences to target behaviours.

In the security section, the aims of systematic and immediate reinforcement are achieved by the use of a token economy. Briefly, this programme involves the definition of those behaviours which are considered necessary for the child's successful adjustment outside the institution. Such behaviour is selected following discussion between the girl and various staff members and by constant observation of her performance in various settings. The girls can then earn tokens for the performance of the specified behaviour and with tokens can buy a wide range of reinforcers such as clothing, cosmetics, food stuffs and privileges, etc. The token economy allows a large number of required, yet incidental, skills to be taught within the institutional setting, i.e. banking, budgeting, health insurance, and so on.

In the cottage setting, treatment is applied to those girls for whom a security setting is not necessary. They have either progressed from security to that situation or have been admitted directly to the cottage. These girls are either working or attending schools in the community, or in some instances are attending school or work at the institution.

Within this open cottage setting, a points system of reinforcement is administered. A girl manager is elected by the cottage girls each week.



Nyandi's approach to treatment is a global one in which the girl and her environment receive attention.

In conjunction with specific skill learning by the girl at Nyandi, environmental aspects of treatment take place with families, employers, teachers and peers. In almost all cases, co-operation is freely given by these social agents. They readily accept direction from our staff to enhance the continued success of girls with whom they interact.

Staff training remains of paramount importance. Group workers under supervision of professional staff supplement their traditional institutional role by moving into the community with specific tasks that were once the prerogative of professionals alone. Group workers are involved in working with parents, foster parents, teachers and employers. Some staff work with the girls' peer group and introduce girls to new peer groups in Youth Clubs or sporting clubs.

#### *Developments*

Underlying all treatment at Nyandi is an emphasis on the objective evaluation of the utilised methods.

As a result there have been eight research projects completed, some of which will be published. The research titles are:—

- (1) Training para-professional staff in Behaviour Modification : Review and Theory.
- (2) Training para-professional staff to improve their reinforcement of appropriate conversation by delinquents in a corrective institution.
- (3) Girl and staff behaviour under systems of peer and staff management in a cottage for delinquent girls.
- (4) Training staff using self-recording of behaviour, to alter delinquent girl's behaviour within group therapy.
- (5) Self-mangement in training delinquent girls to increase appropriate conversation.
- (6) Effects of social reinforcement on the classroom behaviour of two delinquent girls within a token economy programme.
- (7) Contingency contracting with school behaviour problems.
- (8) Self-management in training delinquent girls to increase work and elicit staff praise.

#### **HOSTELS**

The hostels for which the Department is wholly or partly responsible may be grouped according to modal function into those which provide extended or alternative treatment and training facilities where this is necessary for Wards of this Department, and those where the prime reason for admission is not that of the person's behaviour. Those hostels in the former category were established by the Child Welfare Department; those in the latter were established by the Native Welfare Department, or by private agencies with varying degrees and kinds of government assistance.

##### **Treatment and Training Hostels**

The Department must find or provide accommodation for a number of working adolescents, boys and girls, who require a degree of support, supervision, training or continued treatment that is not available in other boarding situations. In some cases, the family is within reach but unable to provide the necessary type or degree of contact.

All children living at the hostels work in the metropolitan area. The hostels' proximity to the city means job opportunities are reasonable without the necessity of extensive travel to and from work, with the attendant problems.

The supervision or other needs of each child is considered before placement at a hostel—most children are the subject of assessment in a Departmental institution before placement at a hostel. In some cases, the boy or girl has had a period of treatment or training at a treatment institution before living at the hostel. In these latter cases, the hostel staff work co-operatively with the treatment institution staff in supervising the child's progress, with the possibility of re-admission to the treatment institution if necessary.

All boys or girls at a hostel have been assigned to the case-load of a field officer of this Department, sometimes also to an Honorary Probation Officer, before their assessment and admission to the hostel.

This provides the opportunity for liaison between the hostel staff, the field staff, a psychologist if involved in a particular case, and the child's family, employer or other relevant person.

#### **STUART HOUSE**

##### *Location*

Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley.

Hostel for eight working girls, 15 to 18 years.

During the past year Stuart House has provided accommodation and a degree of supervision for 29 teenage working girls. Some of the girls have had previous institutional treatment or training experience, but none poses serious behavioural problems. Stuart House can provide a necessary degree of supervision and assistance for girls who must live away from their families, or who are moving from institutional life to an independent life, particularly away from family support.



Most girls have secured employment before moving to Stuart House. Its location makes a wide range of jobs available within reasonable distance and with public transport.

Generally girls find private accommodation when they leave Stuart House if their own families are unable or unsuitable to provide them with it.

## WATSON LODGE

### *Location*

Aberdeen Street, Perth.

Hostel for ten working girls, 15 to 18 years.

Watson Lodge provides a closer degree of supervision and training than is usually possible in hostels for working teenagers. An initial period of three to four weeks is spent at the hostel before the girls obtain employment. During this time, they cover a planned range of domestic-type responsibilities under the supervision of the staff. This allows for some relevant training but, more importantly, allows the girls to find a place in the social structure of the hostel that will help them to "settle" before the demands of employment. Few girls have good earlier employment records.

A continuing service is provided to the girls if they choose to use it after their wardship has terminated—usually at 18 years. This approximates what most families provide for most girls in terms of practical advice, e.g. medical benefits insurance, hire purchase commitments, advice re baby's illnesses. Persons in a position to assist with such practical problems are often lacking in the families and other contacts of these girls.

On leaving Watson Lodge, girls usually find suitable private accommodation but some return to their families. In the past year, 41 girls spent varying periods of time at the hostel.

## TUDOR LODGE

### *Location*

Chelmsford Road, Mount Lawley.

Hostel for 14 working boys, 15 to 18 years.

A boy may be accommodated at Tudor Lodge following assessment of his needs in one of the Department's assessment Centres. Alternatively, he may move there from a treatment institution or directly from an open placement. Though not a treatment centre, Tudor Lodge does provide a degree of supervision and assistance to boys who are in employment. Generally, more than the average amount of assistance is necessary, so that private board is not recommended. The staff of the Lodge are aware of the boy's history and the plans for his future development, including his employment prospects and particular needs.

The boy's family and social contacts are encouraged to visit unless this is judged unwise through knowledge of the pattern of relationships. Board is charged at a set rate and a supplement is given to boys whose pay is not sufficient to cover board, pocket money and fares.

Outings are controlled in frequency and destination, particularly at the earlier stages. Generally the boy's past behaviour has shown a lack of judgement in many of the aspects of social life—use of money, choice of companions and activity, use of alcohol and cars, and so on. The period at Tudor Lodge offers an opportunity for discussion of these matters and the introduction of more external control than is usually possible in private board situations.

A boy's leisure time may be geared to fit him for a reasonable life after he leaves the Lodge, whether for home or other accommodation. Social skills that are often lacking may be developed better in the more controlled and controllable setting of the Hostel than in other settings, partly through interaction with staff and other residents, and assisted also by meeting visitors to the Lodge.

## Education and Employment Hostels

These hostels were operated by or in association with the Native Welfare Department before the establishment of this Department. Under the changed administration, the hostels continue to serve, broadly, the same purposes as those for which they were established, with progressive developments. Such developments reflect the changing needs to be served as well as contemporary thinking regarding, particularly, the care of children.

Most hostels accommodate children who attend school or some course of training. Some are for working boys and girls and a few for other purposes. Almost half the hostels are outside the metropolitan area, enabling practise of the Department's policy not to bring people to the metropolitan area unless their needs for employment or education cannot be met in their home districts. This policy is particularly relevant to the conduct of the hostels services, as almost all persons admitted to hostels are Aborigines. The gains from education or other training may thus be available not only to the individual but to the local community to which that person belongs.



The location and descriptive function of each of the hostels is given in the following table. Properties owned by independent organisations are marked, as also are properties owned by the Department but operated by independent organisations under a formal agreement with the Minister for Community Welfare. The list includes some hostels which are not yet operational but are in varying stages of readiness for use.

#### *Metropolitan*

*† Applecross	....	....	....	....	....	....	Primary school
†§ Ardross	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
§ Bedford Park	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school, business college
†§ Bentley	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
† Como	....	....	"Kyewong"	....	....	....	Employment (girls)
East Perth	....	....	"Bennett House"	....	....	....	Transit Hostel
†§ Greenmount	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
§ Hamilton Hill	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
†§ Kewdale	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
§ Medina	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
§ Melville	....	....	"Karingal"	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary school
† Mt. Lawley	....	....	"Cooinda"	....	....	....	Secondary school, employment (girls)
*† Mt. Lawley	....	....	"Rangevue"	....	....	....	Secondary school
† Mt. Lawley	....	....	"Katakutu"	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
§ Mt. Yokine	....	....	....	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary school
†§ Mt. Yokine	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
§ Subiaco	....	....	"Myara"	....	....	....	Secondary school, employment (girls)
Mosman Park	....	....	"Oceanview"	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary school
Mt. Lawley	....	....	"McDonald House"	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
† Welshpool	....	....	"Warminda"	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary school

#### *Country*

Boulder	....	....	"Nindeebai"	....	....	....	Secondary school
† Boulder	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Cue	....	....	"Kyarra"	....	....	....	Primary school
† Geraldton	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Halls Creek	....	....	"Charles Perkins"	....	....	....	Primary school
†§ Kalgoorlie	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (girls)
† Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Leonora	....	....	"Nabberu"	....	....	....	Primary school
Marble Bar	....	....	"Oolanyah"	....	....	....	Primary school
Onslow	....	....	"Gilliamia"	....	....	....	Primary school
Port Hedland	....	....	"Moorgunya"	....	....	....	Secondary school
Roebourne	....	....	"Weerianna"	....	....	....	Primary school
†§ South Hedland	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary school
Yalgoo	....	....	"Warrambo"	....	....	....	Primary school

\* Owned by independent organisation.

† Operated by independent organisation under a formal agreement with D.C.W.

‡ Planned but not yet operational.

§ Built or purchased wholly or partly with Commonwealth Government Grant Funds.

Although the principal function of the hostels is to provide accommodation where this is necessary for a purpose that cannot be served in the home district, e.g. education, job training, it is never the sole function. The wider responsibility includes providing extended social experiences and influences and thus opportunities to develop more fully the skills and confidence required to function in Australian society.

In common with all institutions conducted by the Department for Community Welfare, there is a gradual upgrading of training for staff of new and selected hostels. Future planning allows provision for training courses to cover such areas as children's behaviour, nutrition, staff management, administrative procedures, with selection and salary commensurate with this level of training.

As indicated in the table above, the Commonwealth Government has provided part of the finance to establish these hostels. A request has been made to that Government for further funds in the 1973/74 year to improve, where necessary, the physical standards of the accommodation in country and metropolitan hostels.

#### **Catering Service**

A catering service was established in 1972, administering and supervising food services to seven institutions and four hostels.

With the establishment of the Department for Community Welfare in June 1972, institutions, hostels and group homes, formerly the responsibility of the Native Welfare Department, came under the jurisdiction of the new Department. Concomitant with this increase, it was found necessary to appoint



an experienced and qualified Catering Officer who, with the assistance of dieticians from the Public Health Department and the Princess Margaret Hospital, was to supervise and administer food programmes.

Besides catering for Departmental needs, this service is able to offer advice and expertise to other private agencies working in a related field which administer a combined total of 77 missions, hostels and group homes. Care is taken to ensure that the children or adults receive optimum nutritional value from meals provided. Further, in preparing meals for Aborigines, consideration is given to their ethnic and cultural heritage. The Catering Service has assisted in setting up soup kitchens for Aborigines in several places in the State.

Additional time could be afforded to research and planning, with staff increases, ensuring a continually improving service.

## ADMINISTRATION







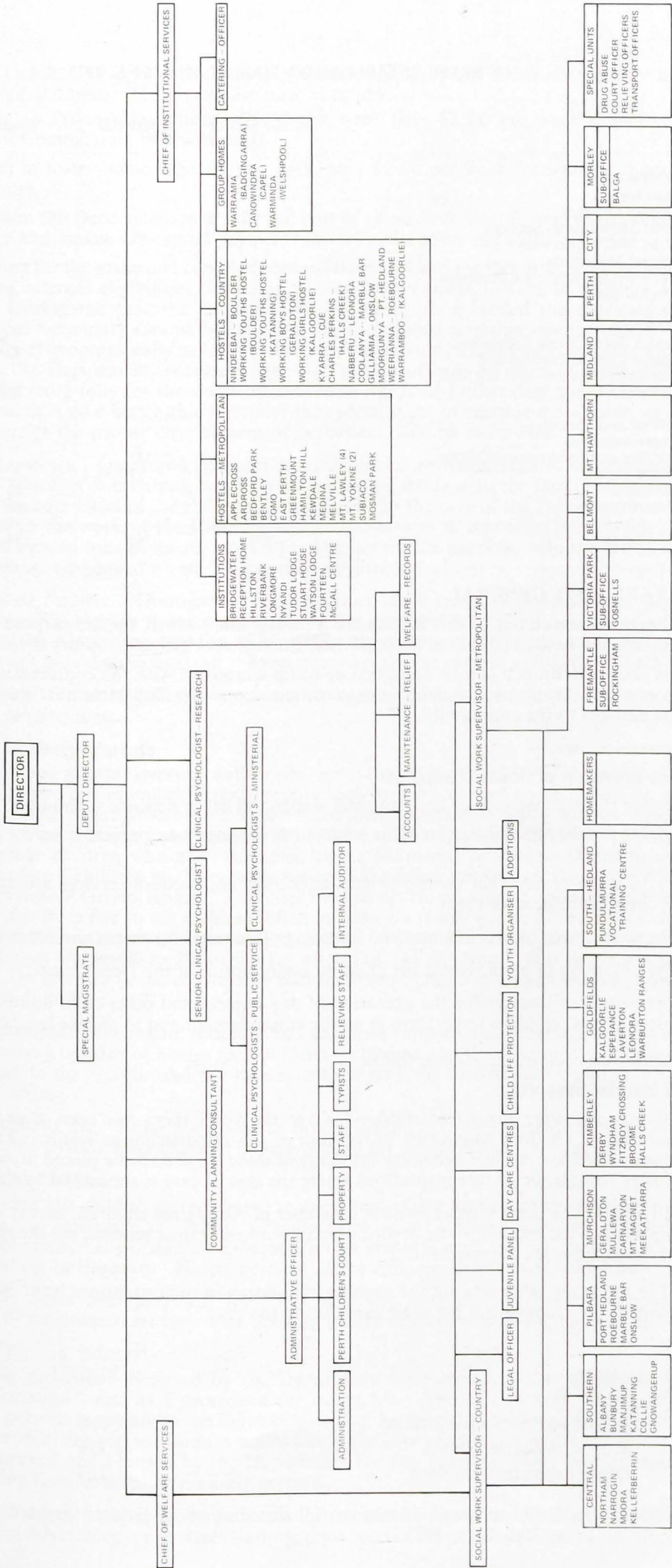
# **ADMINISTRATION**







DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE  
ORGANISATION CHART AS AT 30.6.73





# STAFF ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1973

	Public Service	Ministerial	Wages	Total
Head Office—				
Director .....	1	....	....	1
Deputy Director .....	1	....	....	1
Chief Institutional Services .....	1	....	....	1
Chief Welfare Services .....	1	....	....	1
Special Magistrate .....	1	....	....	1
Community Planning Consultant .....	1	....	....	1
Clerical Staff .....	145	....	1	146
Field Division—				
Senior Social Work Supervisor .....	2	....	....	2
Senior Clinical Psychologist .....	1	....	....	1
Administrative and Welfare Staff .....	202	....	....	202
Office Staff .....	28	....	26	54
Institutions and Hostels—				
Superintendents .....	....	7	....	7
Welfare and Institutional-Officers .....	....	335	....	335
Office Staff .....	....	11	....	11
Domestics .....	....	....	44	44
Hostel Staff .....	....	....	63	63
Totals .....	394	353	134	871

## WELFARE AND GENERAL

The functions carried out by this Branch are generally those which, for the purpose of overall efficiency and service, are better centralised than diffused among suburban and country divisions.

In this sense the Branch can be described as being concerned with the coordination of Departmental and community resources in order to give maximum support to Departmental field officers in providing certain services to the community.

These services are:—

1. The provision of financial support—
  - (a) for the maintenance of departmental wards and other dependent children;
  - (b) for families or children in crisis when such support may prevent a severe breakdown in their situations;
  - (c) so as to ensure that certain health, education and welfare services are extended to destitute persons in need of them.
2. The recruitment of foster homes and boarding placements for wards and other dependent children;
3. The obtaining of employment for children under notice of the Department;
4. The issuing of licences for the operation of day nursery and other child minding facilities, private foster homes, children to perform in public entertainment and to engage in street trading.

Comments on each of these areas follow:—

### (1) Financial Support

*Wards and other dependent children.* Over the years there has been a steady increase in the number of children committed to the care of the Department as wards. The circumstances of committal have made it necessary for many of these children to be placed in surrogate homes with foster parents, or private institutions where the cost of care is subsidised by the Department.

In addition to these wards there are a number of Aboriginal children, mostly resident in northern missions who, because of the destitute circumstances of their parents, are the recipients of financial support from the Department.

The following table sets out the number of children in such situations as at 30/6/73 and the total cost to the Department for their care during the year.

	Number as at 30/6/73	Total cost during year \$
Wards in Private Institutions .....	798	368,970
Wards in Foster Homes .....	1,339	1,001,918
Other dependent children .....	124	117,319

NOTE: Table 1 on page 58 shows full distribution of children assisted by the Department as at 30th June, 1973.



As from 1st October, 1972, the basic subsidies were increased by one dollar per week for all wards and dependent children. These rates are now as follows:—

Children in Private Institutions—\$9.50 per week (less \$1.00 per week donation by the Lotteries Commission, when claimed).

Children in foster homes—\$8.00 per week, plus \$1.00 per week for student children aged 15 or more.

In addition the Department meets the full cost of all medical, dental, optical and other health expenses and makes substantial payments towards education and clothing costs.

In catering for the many and complex needs of these children the Department has endeavoured to utilise external eligibilities, including various Commonwealth Grants, Benefits and Pensions. During the year the Australian Government has extended the application of the Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme and has introduced a further scheme to subsidise the education of geographically isolated children. These are significant developments which have assisted the Department, relieved of the full burden of care of many of these children, in providing more fully for the needs of subsidised wards and other dependent children. The Department is now better able to render the special types of treatment and training so often necessary for the proper development of dependent children in its care.

*Preventive Payments.* Quick and appropriate treatment of a situation can often prevent a family break-down which, if it occurred, would result in lasting damage to the family structure and in many cases the committal of the children of that family to the care of the Department. In order to give effect to the work of the Department's Field Services in this area, the Branch approves releases from time to time of money from a fund set-up for the purpose. In the last year a total of \$18,204.00 was expended on such supportive payments.

*Aid to Destitute Persons.* Throughout the community there are certain segments of population in need of financial support to maintain a reasonable standard in areas of health and education, but have not the capacity to pay for such services themselves. Where no other avenue exists, this Department provides the financial support necessary for the general well-being of such persons.

During the year a total of \$176,413 was spent on health maintenance and \$71,042 was spent on educational requirements.

## (2) **Recruitment of Foster Parents**

Australian, as well as most overseas authorities, agree that in the majority of cases it is preferable for children in need of Community care to receive such care in a normal domestic setting, such as a foster home. The major problem lies in the recruitment of suitable foster parents, especially as the majority of prospective foster parents are seeking relatively young children in preference to older or teenage children who may, they feel, create additional problems. Finding homes for "difficult to place" children has been made easier by the development over the last few years of a number of private "Group Homes". Under the Group Home scheme specially selected foster parents care for from five to ten children, often including a family group of several children, and receive special financial support from the Department. As at 30th June, 1973, the total number of Group Homes amounted to 20, caring for a total of 146 children. This figure has increased rapidly over the last two years, considering that there were only two Group Homes caring for 19 children as at 30th June, 1971.

It is anticipated that with careful selection and adequate support, this scheme will grow and provide an increasing number of homes for "difficult" children and the placements, once made, will not be subject to the high breakdown rate associated with the care of such children in the usual foster home setting.

The "Emergency Care" foster home scheme originated in 1967. At present there are 35 suitable homes available to look after children in emergencies for short periods.

## (3) **Employment of Children**

During the year 210 children were referred to the Employment Section of the Welfare Branch by field officers for assistance in seeking suitable employment. These referrals included a high proportion of emotionally disturbed children with an unstable work history, many of whom were of below average intelligence. Ninety per cent of the children were departmental wards.

Although the State unemployment level was relatively high during the year, approximately 60 per cent of all children referred were actually placed in employment by the Section.

## (4) **Licensing**

The licensing provisions exercised by the Department were introduced as a safeguard against "child exploitation" and as a protection for infant life. The care of very young children by non-related persons is subject to the Director's control by special provisions of the Child Welfare Act. Foster mothers and institutions undertaking the care of children under the age of 6 years must be approved and licensed by the Department for this purpose. Day Nurseries and other Child Minding Centres must be similarly licensed.

Children who engage in any public performance for entertainment purposes, for gain or reward in commercial advertising, or in street trading, must receive the prior approval of the Department.



*Foster Mothers and Institutions Caring For the Young.* The number of foster mothers caring privately for unrelated children under 6 years, has been comparatively stable for some years. A total of 16 were licensed for the 1972/73 year. For the same year there were 11 institutions licensed to care for a total of 296 infants.

*Day Nursery and Child Minding Facilities.* As the trend for mothers to engage in employment grows, so does the demand for placements where a child can be minded during working hours.

In June, 1968, there were 11 Child Care Centres registered in Western Australia.

In June, 1973, there were 111 Centres licensed by the Department for Community Welfare, providing care for approximately 1,676 pre-school children.

The following Centres provide full day care for the pre-school children of working mothers:—

46 Day Care Centres—1,260 children

59 Family Care Centres—216 children

Six (6) occasional Care Centres cater for 200 children on an hourly basis during business hours.

There is an increasing demand for places for children under three years of age. Twelve (12) Day Care Centres cater for this age group and the majority of Centres have waiting lists.

Four nurseries continued to receive financial assistance from the Government to June, 1973. These were:—

Esme Fletcher Day Nursery, Fremantle

Marjorie Mann Day Nursery, Mt. Lawley

Ngal-a Day Nursery, South Perth

Len Taplin Day Nursery, Port Hedland

Under the Child Care Act, 1972, the Commonwealth can make financial assistance available to certain types of non-profit making organisations for the establishment and operation of Child Care Centres, giving priority of admission to the children of needy families.

It is hoped that such Centres will be established in the coming year by Local Government authorities and organisations, in areas where there is the greatest need.

In an effort to overcome the shortage of trained staff in the field of child care, the State Government appointed a steering committee charged with the duty of planning courses of training.

A one year part-time In-Service Course for unqualified staff working in Child Care Centres, including Family Care "mothers" commenced in February, 1973, at a Technical Education Centre. This course was arranged by the Department for Community Welfare pre-school officers, who also lecture in child development and early childhood education.

*Licences for Children Involved in Public Performances and in Commercial Advertising.* During the year licences were issued in respect of 5,852 children, mainly concerning children who were appearing in annual concerts organised by dancing schools and in children's television programmes.

*Street Trading by Children.* Only boys over the age of 12 years may be licensed to engage in street trading. During the past year 249 children were licensed, mostly for the purpose of selling newspapers after school hours.

## FINANCIAL AID

Assistance to families in need is granted under the provisions of the Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961, which also regulates the recovery of money advanced.

The rates of assistance have been reviewed and increased twice during the current financial year. An increase of \$1.50 per week per family was made from 11/10/72 and a similar increase was granted in April, 1973, but made retrospective to 6/12/72.

Again a considerable increase in the numbers of deserted wives and unmarried mothers claiming assistance has occurred. A total of 4,395 applications were granted of which 3,473 were from these categories.

Expenditure this year reached the record figure of \$2,498,505 after recoup of \$1,856,802 from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Thus a total of \$4,355,307 was paid to families receiving assistance.

The Commonwealth Government announced in June the passing of amendments to the Social Services Act enabling a new benefit to be paid to separated wives, unmarried mothers and the defacto wives of prisoners.



The new benefit becomes payable from 3/7/73 and over 1,200 families are in the process of being transferred to this payment by the Department of Social Security.

Expenditure				1971/72	1972/73
				\$	\$
Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	....	....	....	1,624,420	2,431,375
Unemployment Relief	....	....	....	70,880	67,130
				1,695,300	2,498,505
Revenue by recovery	....	....	....	185,114	235,203
Recovery of maintenance for Wards of Department				50,751	59,921

#### Applications Granted

Category	1971/72			1972/73		
	Applica- tions granted	Receiving assistance as at 30th June		Applica- tions granted	Receiving assistance as at 30th June	
		Families	Children		Families	Children
Deserted Wives	1,510	1,282	3,329	2,557	1,520	3,815
Unmarried Mothers	610	742	907	916	965	1,213
Wives/Defacto of Prisoners	463	164	453	521	115	305
Widows/Divorced or Age/Invalid Pensioners	155	185	591	108	139	450
Foster Children	255	153	274	260	188	301
Other	36	25	66	33	20	38
Totals	3,029	2,551	5,620	4,395	2,947	6,122

#### Variations in Rates

Unit	30/6/72	11/10/72	6/12/72
Parent	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.25	\$ 21.50
Parent + 1 child	26.75	28.50	30.00
" + 2 children	31.25	33.00	34.50
" + 3 "	37.75	39.50	41.00
" + 4 "	42.25	44.00	45.50
" + 5 "	46.75	48.50	50.00
" + 6 "	51.25	53.00	54.50
" + 7 "	55.75	57.50	59.00
" + 8 "	60.25	62.00	63.50

### DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961

#### Statement of Receipts and Payments 1/7/72 to 30/6/73

Payments:—

Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	....	....	....	....	....	\$ 2,431,374.08
Unemployment Relief	....	....	....	....	....	67,129.79
Receipts	....	....	....	....	....	235,806.85

I certify this is a true statement of cash transactions under the Welfare and Assistance Act for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

Auditor General

### DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTY

The Property Section was established as a result of the amalgamation of the Child Welfare and Native Welfare Departments on 1st July, 1972.

The function of this Section was to arrange for acquisition, furnishing, maintenance and disposal of all Departmental property in relation to buildings and vehicles.



**Offices and Institutions**

There are 48 offices situated throughout the State; as well, there are 25 Departmentally controlled establishments for the placement of children for educational and disciplinary training.

During the year, new office centres were commenced at Kununurra, Paraburdoo and Balga and new office accommodation was obtained at Midland, Pinjarra, East Perth, Bunbury, Fitzroy Crossing, Katanning, Manjimup, Derby and Esperance.

Negotiations are still continuing for new accommodation for Head Office sections and at Gosnells, Geraldton, Kununurra, Kalgoorlie, Northam, Carnarvon and Paraburdoo.

**Vehicles**

This Department operates a fleet of 118 vehicles stationed at 49 centres throughout the State. During the past year these vehicles covered 1,396,374 miles on official business. Exclusive of Capital costs for vehicle purchases, the cost to operate these vehicles for the year was 5.723 cents per mile.

Private vehicles used on official business during the same period covered 660,680 miles.

In addition to conventional vehicles used, the Department has the following units placed throughout the State.

5 Trucks  
10 Trailers  
10 Buses  
3 Tractors



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1973.

WARD EXPENDITURE

DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

1971 /72*	Particulars	1972 /73	General Admin.	Field Operations	Private Institutions	Boarded Out	Non Ward Inc. Migrants	Reserves	Financial Assistance	Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
3,024,866	Salaries and Wages	4,571,833	984,923	1,314,192						985,829	991,177	295,712
235,873	Administration	141,745	141,745									
11,494	Printing	27,139	13,569	13,570								
	Departmental Housing	45,048		45,048								
	Field Expenses	413,736		405,166			8,570					
	Community Welfare Assistance	521,606	6,595	192,443			78,849		243,719			
1,218,468	Maintenance of Children	1,460,360			368,970	1,069,331	22,059					
83,797	Adoption of Children	81,575					81,575					
1,624,419	Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	2,431,375							2,431,375			
70,880	Unemployment Relief	67,129							67,129		171,689	260,493
389,876	Institutions	589,641								157,459		
	Assistance to Missions	307,379							307,379			
	Residential Reserves	193,897						193,897				
6,659,673	TOTAL PAYMENTS	10,852,463	1,146,832	1,970,419	368,970	1,069,331	191,053	193,897	3,049,602	1,143,288	1,162,866	556,205
50,751	AGAINST WHICH RECEIPTS WERE											
185,114	Maintenance of Children	74,290				74,290			235,807			
70,487	Recoverable Assist. (Wel. & Asst. Act)	235,807							6,500	1,163	8,516	109,139
	Other Revenue	179,497	21,300	7,423			13,310	12,146				
306,352	TOTAL RECEIPTS	489,594	21,300	7,423		74,290	13,310	12,146	242,307	1,163	8,516	109,139
6,353,321	NET EXPENDITURE	10,362,869	1,125,532	1,962,996	368,970	995,041	177,743	181,751	2,807,295	1,142,125	1,154,350	447,066

\* Child Welfare Department Figures Only.



**Write Offs**

Uncollectable debts written off with the approval of the Hon. Minister over the past three years are as follows:—

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
	\$	\$	\$
Maintenance of Wards ....	4,455	8,548	5,508
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards ....	1,116	1,263	1,834
Recoverable Financial Assistance ....	21,037	4,551	18,777
	<u>\$26,608</u>	<u>\$14,362</u>	<u>\$26,119</u>

**Trust Funds**

Total receipts for the year, compared with the previous year, are as follows:—

1972/73	1971/72
\$959,820	\$37,504

The increase this year includes moneys transferred from the Native Welfare Department and grants received from the Commonwealth Department of Aborigines. This later figure amounted to \$306,400.

**Savings Bank Funds—Wards**

Deductions from wages by employers for Wards under the terms of Service Agreements received for banking purposes:—

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts ....	...	...	78
Balance as at 30th June ....	1,580	1,242	367

Other remittances received for banking purposes:—

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts ....	2,990	2,181	5,101
Balance as at 30th June ....	17,215	19,163	20,717

**Mission Grants In Aid 1972/73**

Mission	Project	Amount \$
Marribank ....	Concrete Water Tanks ....	10,000.00
	Hostel Accommodation ....	20,000.00
Roelands ....	Teenage Cottage ....	28,000.00
A.A.E.M. Esperance ....	Cold Room and Renovations ....	5,395.50
Norseman ....	Refrigerator ....	1,200.00
	Storage Tank—Balance ....	300.00
	Cottage ....	8,000.00
Fairhaven ....	Washing Machines ....	200.00
	Renovating Bathrooms ....	400.00
	Additional Bathrooms ....	2,500.00
Carnarvon ....	Basketball Court with Lighting ....	1,780.00
Karalundi ....	Extension and Upgrading Water Supply ....	3,500.00
Wiluna ....	Extension to Power Supply ....	1,000.00
St. Joseph's ....	Kitchen Dining Hall Complex ....	20,000.00
Lombardina ....	Sewing and Store Room ....	9,000.00
Balgo ....	Extensions, Additions and Re-equipping of Dining Hall ....	6,000.00
Maria Goretti ....	Replace Flywire ....	684.14
U.A.M. Fitzroy Crossing ....	Water Piping ....	1,300.00
Tardun ....	Toilet Block ....	7,600.00
Mowanjum ....	20,000 gallon Water Tank, Water Supply, Bore, Casing and Pump ....	4,000.00
Cundeelee ....	Ablution Block ....	7,000.00
Methodist Mission ....	Cottage ....	4,306.00
		<u>\$142,165.64</u>

**Australian Government Financial Grants 1972/73**

Project	Amount \$
Working Girls' Hostel—Kalgoorlie ....	114,000.00
Community Centres—	
Wyndham ....	40,000.00
Kununurra ....	40,000.00
Hostels—Metropolitan Area ....	88,000.00
Nyalkabai (Warburton Ranges) ....	24,400.00
	<u>\$306,400.00</u>



## STATISTICS

The Statistics relating to offences by children dealt with by the Children's Court and other details related thereto, which appear in the following tables, have been systematically gathered from standardised informative reports on each child appearing before a Children's Court and collated by use of the Government computer, with the co-operation of the staff of the Computer Centre.

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- Table 2. Juvenile Offences—cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia during the past three years.
- Table 3. Juvenile Offenders—Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1973.
- Table 4. Juvenile Misbehaviour—cases of juvenile misbehaviour appearing in Children's Courts for the year ended 30th June, 1973.
- Table 5. Child Neglect—cases of parental neglect and destitution appearing in Children's Courts for the year ended June, 1973.
- Table 6. Juvenile Misbehaviour and Child Neglect—Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts for the year ended 30th June, 1973.
- Table 7. Juvenile Misbehaviour and Child Neglect—placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1973.
- Table 8. Children placed under the care of the Department for Community Welfare by means of Ministerial committal for the year ended 30th June, 1973.
- Table 9. Number of Court appearances of children in Metropolitan area.
- Table 10. Number of Court appearances of children between age of 7 and 17 in Metropolitan area, per 1,000 population.

### List of Graphs

- Graph 1. Juvenile Offences—number of offences with which children were charged in terms of children's ages.
- Graph 2. Juvenile Offences—number of children appearing in Children's Courts during the past three years and in 1962/63.
- Graph 3. Juvenile Offences—Aboriginal and European children appearing in Children's Courts during the past three years.
- Graph 4. Juvenile Offences—Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1973.
- Graph 5. Juvenile Misbehaviour—Cases appearing by age.
- Graph 6. Child Neglect—Cases appearing by age.
- Graph 7. Juvenile Misbehaviour—Departmental Placement
- Graph 8. Juvenile Offenders—Departmental Placement.
- Graph 9. Juvenile Offenders—Committal and Recommittal.
- Graph 10. Highest number of Court appearances of children in Metropolitan area.



TABLE 1  
STATUS, NUMBERS AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT  
AS AT 30th JUNE, 1973

[illegible]



TABLE 2  
JUVENILE OFFENCES

Cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia which were attended by Departmental Officers during the past 3 years

		1970/71			1971/72			1972/73		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Offences against property	(A)	6,941	1,058	7,999	6,556	817	7,373	7,588	807	8,395
	(B)	2,895	565	3,460	2,618	545	3,163	3,112	447	3,559
	(C)	2,059	442	2,501	1,931	403	2,334	2,074	351	2,425
Offences against person	(A)	197	13	210	239	19	258	271	26	297
	(B)	168	13	181	198	15	213	217	17	234
	(C)	123	9	132	144	11	155	152	9	161
Offences against good order	(A)	1,084	213	1,297	1,321	231	1,552	1,578	312	1,890
	(B)	474	114	588	555	180	735	649	232	881
	(C)	381	80	461	410	117	527	403	156	559
Total	(A)	8,222	1,284	9,506	8,116	1,067	9,183	9,437	1,145	10,582
	(B)	3,537	692	4,229	3,371	740	4,111	3,978	696	4,674
	(C)	2,563	531	3,094	2,485	531	3,016	2,629	516	3,145

(A) Number of offences for which children were charged. (Graph 1).

(B) Number of child appearances (including appearances of children who appeared on two or more occasions).

(C) Number of individual children concerned. (Graph 2).

**Offences against property**—Includes stealing and receiving (largest category); breaking, entering and stealing; unlawful use of motor vehicles; wilful damage; false pretences.

**Offences against the person**—Includes assault; sex offences; robbery with violence.

**Offences against good order**—Includes disorderly conduct; false name and address; resisting arrest; liquor; betting and traffic offences.

TABLE 3  
JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

				Male	Female	Total
Released to Parents	....	....	(A)	178	33	211
	....	....	(B)	119	24	143
Released to Relatives	....	....	(A)	20	9	29
	....	....	(B)	29	10	39
Released to persons other than relatives	....	....	(A)	25	9	34
	....	....	(B)	35	8	43
Released to employment	....	....	(A)	13	....	13
	....	....	(B)	15	4	19
Placed in Riverbank or Longmore	....	....	(A)	47	....	47
	....	....	(B)	122	....	122
Placed in Hillston	....	....	(A)	55	....	55
	....	....	(B)	122	....	122
Placed in independent institutions	....	....	(A)	44	5	49
	....	....	(B)	58	17	75
Placed in Neuville	....	....	(A)	....	5	5
	....	....	(B)	....	5	5
Placed with foster parents	....	....	(A)	14	5	19
	....	....	(B)	18	7	25
Placed in Nyandi	....	....	(A)	....	7	7
	....	....	(B)	....	51	51
TOTALS	....	....	(A)	396	73	469
	....	....	(B)	518	126	644

(A) Committed to care of Department.

(B) Re-committed to care of Department.

Note that most of children committed to the care of the Department are placed for assessment in one of the Department's assessment centres, viz. Longmore, Bridgewater or Mount Lawley Reception Home, prior to being placed as detailed above.



TABLE 4  
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR  
(Refer Graph 5)

Cases of juvenile misbehaviour appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

	7 years			8 years			9 years			10 years			11 years			12 years		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	2	1	1	2
Neglect (generally uncontrolled) .....	....	....	....	1	....	1	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	4	5
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct) .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Truancy .....	4	....	4	....	2	2	1	....	1	4	2	6	2	4	6	3	1	4
Breaking terms of probation .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....
Possession of drugs .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
TOTAL .....	4	....	4	1	2	3	2	....	2	4	2	6	5	4	9	5	6	11

	13 years			14 years			15 years			16 years			17 years			TOTAL		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled .....	3	3	6	3	1	4	3	4	7	....	3	3	....	2	2	12	14	26
Neglect (generally uncontrolled) .....	....	8	8	1	15	16	1	16	17	....	9	9	....	3	3	5	55	60
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct) .....	1	2	3	....	14	14	1	16	17	....	10	10	....	5	5	2	47	49
Truancy .....	9	12	21	7	3	10	2	1	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	32	25	57
Breaking terms of probation .....	....	3	3	1	1	2	....	1	1	....	2	2	1	....	1	3	7	10
Possession of drugs .....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	2	....	2	4	....	4	7	....	7
TOTAL .....	13	28	41	13	34	47	7	38	45	2	24	26	5	10	15	61	148	209

B—Boys appearing  
G—Girls appearing  
T—Total appearing

TABLE 5  
CHILD NEGLECT  
(Refer Graph 6)

Cases of Parental Neglect and Destitution appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

Reason for Appearance				AGE									
				Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Parental Neglect .....	Boys	....	....	12	15	8	8	10	6	4	9	3	8
	Girls	....	....	13	6	9	7	6	9	5	11	7	3
Destitution .....	Boys	....	....	2	1	1	2	2	....	1	3	4	....
	Girls	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	2
TOTAL .....	Boys	....	....	14	16	9	10	12	6	5	12	7	8
	Girls	....	....	14	6	9	7	7	10	5	11	7	5
GRAND TOTAL .....	....	....	....	28	22	18	17	19	16	10	23	14	13

Reason for Appearance				AGE							TOTAL
				10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Parental Neglect .....	Boys	....	....	3	5	6	3	1	2	....	104
	Girls	....	....	8	4	6	5	6	3	....	109
Destitution .....	Boys	....	....	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	19
	Girls	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
TOTAL .....	Boys	....	....	5	5	7	3	1	2	....	123
	Girls	....	....	9	4	6	5	6	3	....	115
GRAND TOTAL .....	....	....	....	14	9	13	8	7	5	....	238



TABLE 6

## JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT

Court decisions in regard to cases of juvenile misbehaviour, neglect and destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

Court Decision	Male	Female	Total
Cautioned .....	1	1	2
Dismissed with Supervision .....	2	1	3
Placed on probation .....	14	33	47
Committed to care of Department	167	233	400
Recommitted to care of Department	2	6	8
Fined .....	.....	1	1
Placed with suitable parents or home	1	.....	1
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>462</b>

" Juvenile misbehaviour " includes cases where the child is deemed uncontrolled or to be neglected by virtue of his own behaviour, for example sexual misconduct. Truancy and failure to comply with Court-imposed terms of probation are also included in this section. The children involved are not regarded in the same light as juveniles convicted of criminal offences.

" Child neglect " covers children neglected by their parents or who are destitute.

TABLE 7

## JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for Community Welfare for juvenile misbehaviour, parental neglect or destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

Departmental Disposal	Male	Female	Total
Released to parents .....	51	89	140
Released to relatives .....	25	28	53
Released to other than relatives .....	9	21	30
Placed with foster parent .....	51	59	110
Released to employment .....	1	2	3
Placed in independent institutions .....	29	26	55
Placed in Neuville .....	.....	5	5
Placed in Hillston .....	2	.....	2
Placed in Nyandi .....	.....	9	9
Placed in Riverbank .....	1	.....	1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>408</b>

" Juvenile misbehaviour " includes cases where the child is deemed uncontrolled or to be neglected by virtue of his own behaviour, for example sexual misconduct. Truancy and failure to comply with Court-imposed terms of probation are also included in this section. The children involved are not regarded in the same light as juveniles convicted of criminal offences.



TABLE 8  
MINISTERIAL COMMITTALS

Children placed under the care of the Department for Community Welfare by means of Ministerial Committal for the year ended 30th June, 1973.

					AGE									
					Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Section 47A	....	....	Boys	....	2	1	3	1	1	2	....	2	1	1
			Girls	....	2	....	....	1	2	3	....	2	....	1
Section 47B	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
			Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Section 47C	....	....	Boys	....	4	5	....	1	....	2	....	....	1	1
			Girls	....	....	1	3	2	....	1	....	....	1	1
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	8	7	6	5	3	8	....	4	3	4

					AGE								Total
					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Section 47A	....	....	Boys	....	3	2	3	1	....	1	2	1	27
			Girls	....	2	....	....	2	2	2	....	1	20
Section 47B	....	....	Boys	....	1	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	4
			Girls	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	1	....	3
Section 47C	....	....	Boys	....	1	3	....	....	....	1	....	....	19
			Girls	....	2	1	....	....	1	2	1	....	16
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	9	7	5	4	3	7	4	2	89

NOTE : These committals are authorised by the Hon. Minister by virtue of power given to him in accordance with Sections 47A, 47B, and 47C of the Child Welfare Act, which provides for power to commit those cases which may not otherwise be committed.

47A deals with children left by their parents in Institutions or with other persons and no maintenance.

47B deals with children who have no legal guardian but who are not destitute.

47C deals with children whose parents consider it is in the best interests of the children to be committed.

TABLE 9  
NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES OF CHILDREN IN METROPOLITAN AREA—1972/73  
(Refer Graph 10)

Local Government Area				Caucasian			Aboriginal			Total
				Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
Stirling	....	....	....	515	186	701	47	28	75	776
Perth (C)	....	....	....	368	98	466	39	13	52	518
Canning	....	....	....	222	59	281	19	28	47	328
Melville (T)	....	....	....	253	51	304	3	4	7	311
Belmont	....	....	....	213	38	251	38	4	42	293
Bayswater	....	....	....	186	40	226	13	6	19	245
Cockburn	....	....	....	124	53	177	48	14	62	239
Fremantle (C)	....	....	....	172	52	224	3	4	7	231
Swan-Guildford	....	....	....	142	29	171	36	20	56	227
Kwinana	....	....	....	113	26	139	11	5	16	155
South Perth (C)	....	....	....	102	30	132	....	1	1	133
Gosnells	....	....	....	95	17	112	9	8	17	129
Bassendean	....	....	....	80	25	105	14	8	22	127
Kalamunda	....	....	....	98	14	112	....	6	6	118
Rockingham	....	....	....	60	22	82	5	1	6	88
Mundaring	....	....	....	61	13	74	7	1	8	82
Armadale-Kelmscott	....	....	....	48	15	63	15	1	16	79
East Fremantle (T)	....	....	....	56	9	65	....	....	....	65
Subiaco	....	....	....	45	18	63	2	....	2	65
Wanneroo	....	....	....	37	21	58	....	1	1	59
Mosman Park (T)	....	....	....	11	16	27	1	....	1	28
Nedlands (C)	....	....	....	12	12	24	....	....	....	24
Claremont (T)	....	....	....	14	4	18	....	....	....	18
Cottesloe (T)	....	....	....	11	6	17	....	....	....	17
Peppermint Grove	....	....	....	2	1	3	....	....	....	3
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	....	....	....	1	....	1	2	....	2	3
TOTAL	....	....	....	3,041	855	3,896	312	153	465	4,361

TABLE 10  
NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES OF CHILDREN BETWEEN AGE 7 AND 17 IN  
METROPOLITAN AREA PER 1,000 POPULATION—1972/73

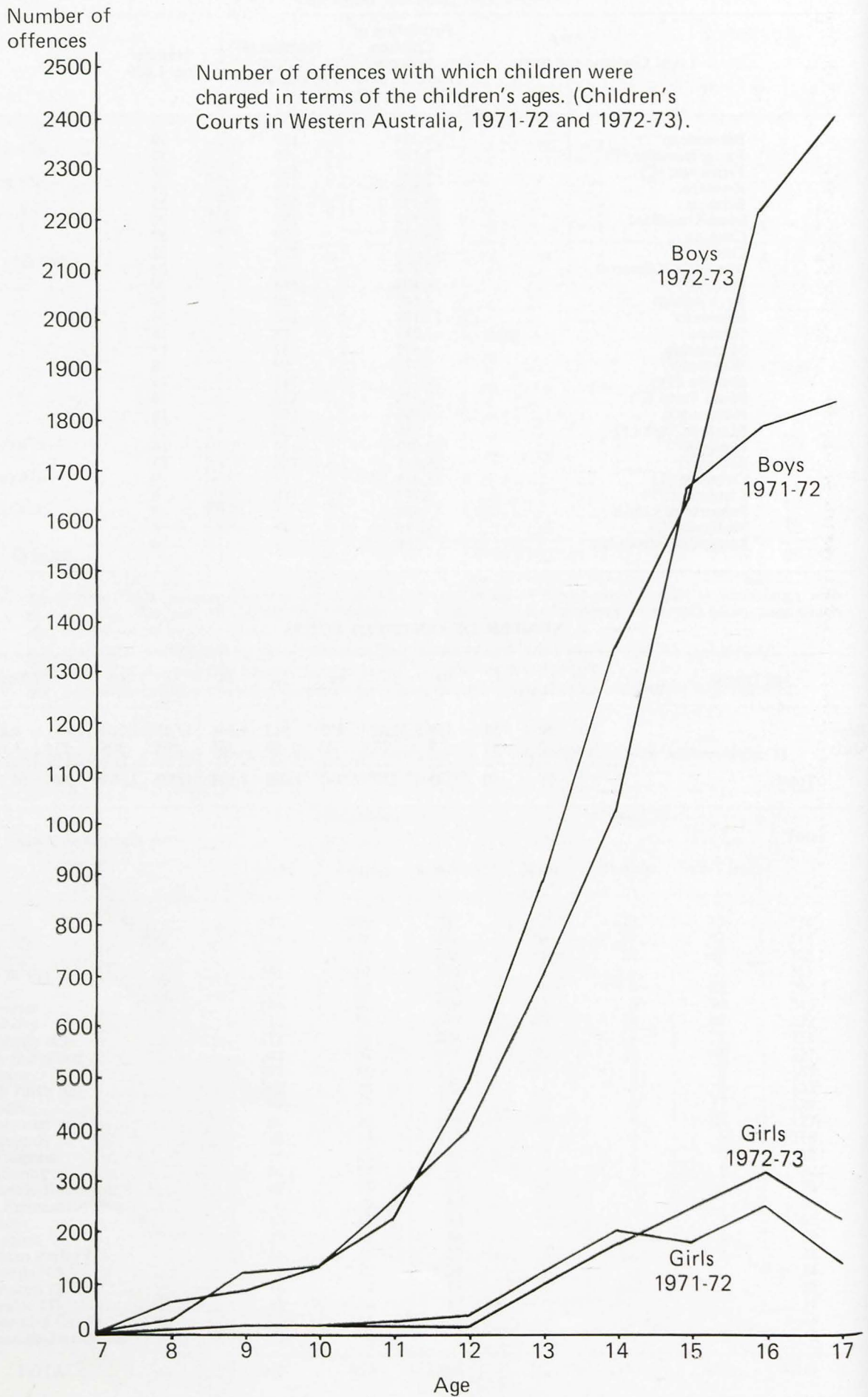
Local Government Area	Population of Children between 7 and 17 as at 30th June, 1971	Number of Court Appearances	Number per 1,000
Bassendean ....	4,254	127	30
East Fremantle (T) ....	2,187	65	30
Fremantle (C) ....	8,247	231	28
Kwinana ....	5,804	155	27
Belmont ....	12,797	293	23
Swan-Guildford ....	10,110	227	22
Canning ....	14,717	328	22
Cockburn ....	11,086	239	22
Armadale-Kelmscott ....	3,772	79	21
Perth (C) ....	26,102	518	20
Rockingham ....	4,666	88	19
Bayswater ....	13,101	245	19
Subiaco ....	3,522	65	18
Mundaring ....	4,691	82	17
Wanneroo ....	3,572	59	16
Melville (T) ....	19,163	311	16
South Perth (C) ....	8,550	133	16
Kalamunda ....	7,690	118	15
Mosman Park (T) ....	1,920	28	15
Gosnells ....	9,019	129	14
Stirling ....	58,411	776	13
Cottesloe (T) ....	1,815	17	9
Claremont (T) ....	2,777	18	6
Peppermint Grove ....	564	3	5
Nedlands (C) ....	5,716	24	4
Serpentine-Jarrahdale ....	756	3	4

NUMBER OF OFFENCES 1972-73

Age (years)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Boys	2	54	59	128	203	475	912	1,366	1,623	2,204	2,411	9,437
Girls	1	5	11	5	25	22	88	166	284	304	234	1,145
Total	3	59	70	133	228	497	1,000	1,532	1,907	2,508	2,645	10,582

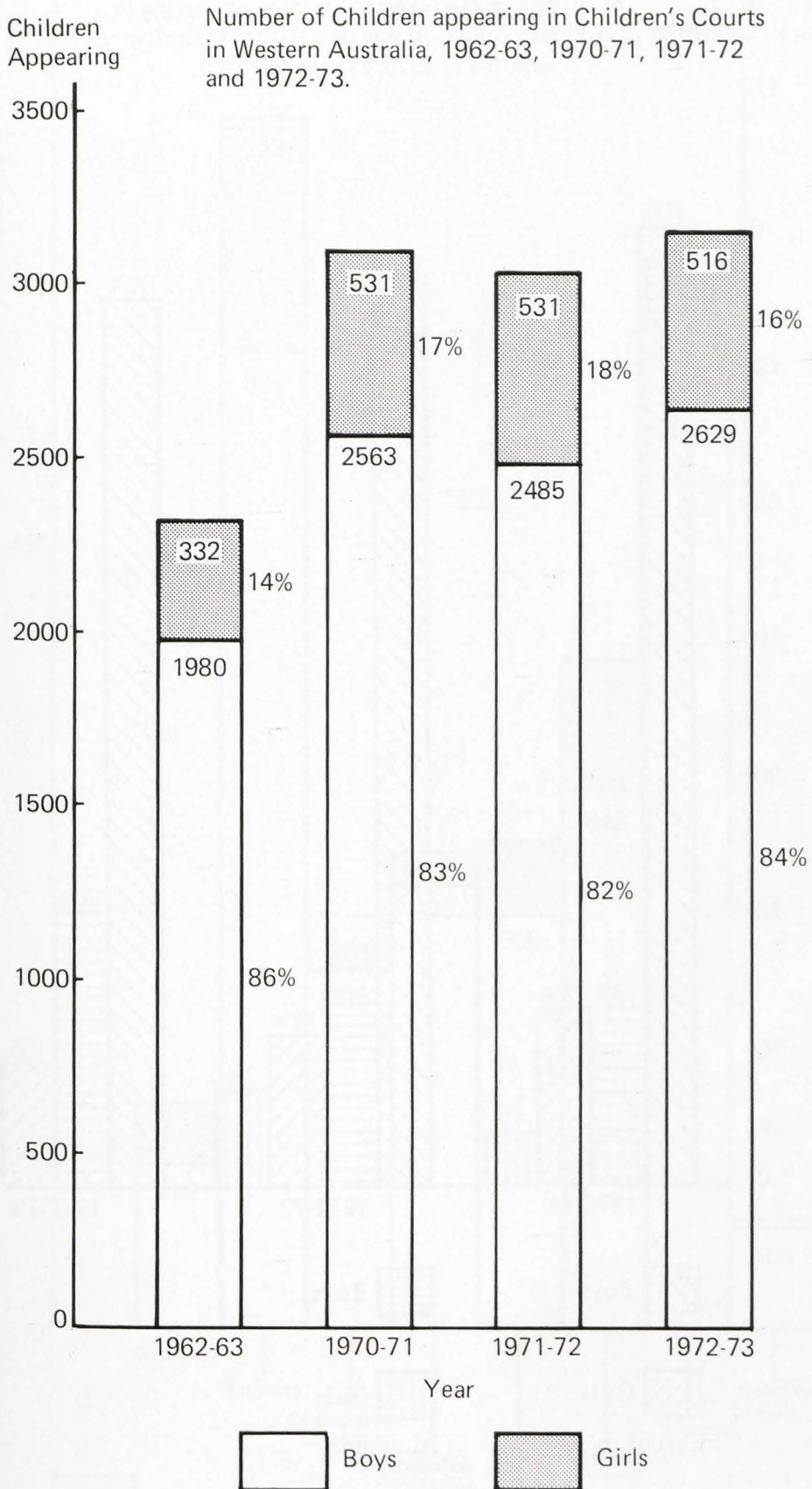


GRAPH 1  
JUVENILE OFFENCES  
 (Refer Table 1)



GRAPH 2

JUVENILE OFFENCES (Table 2)

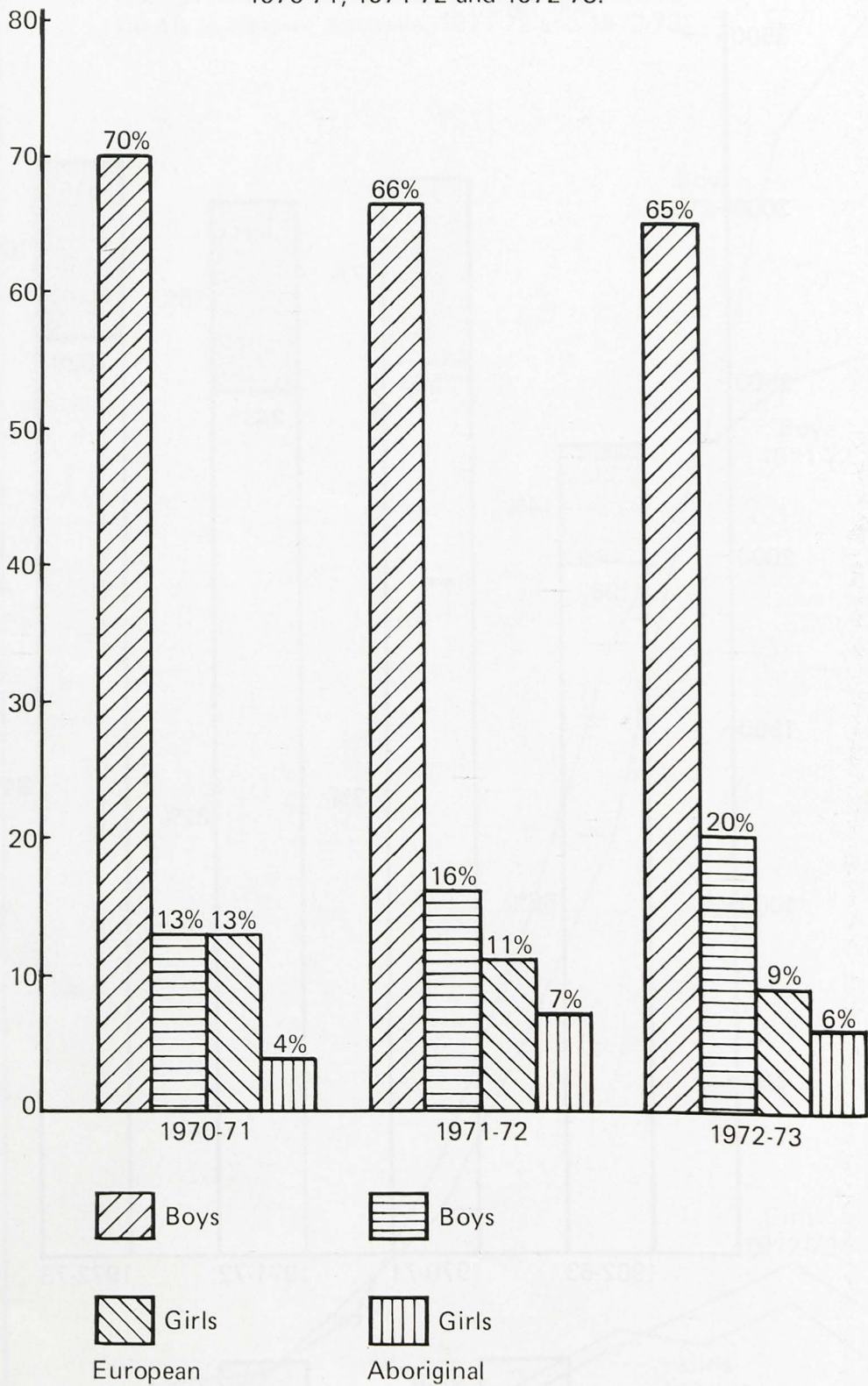




### GRAPH 3

#### JUVENILE OFFENCES

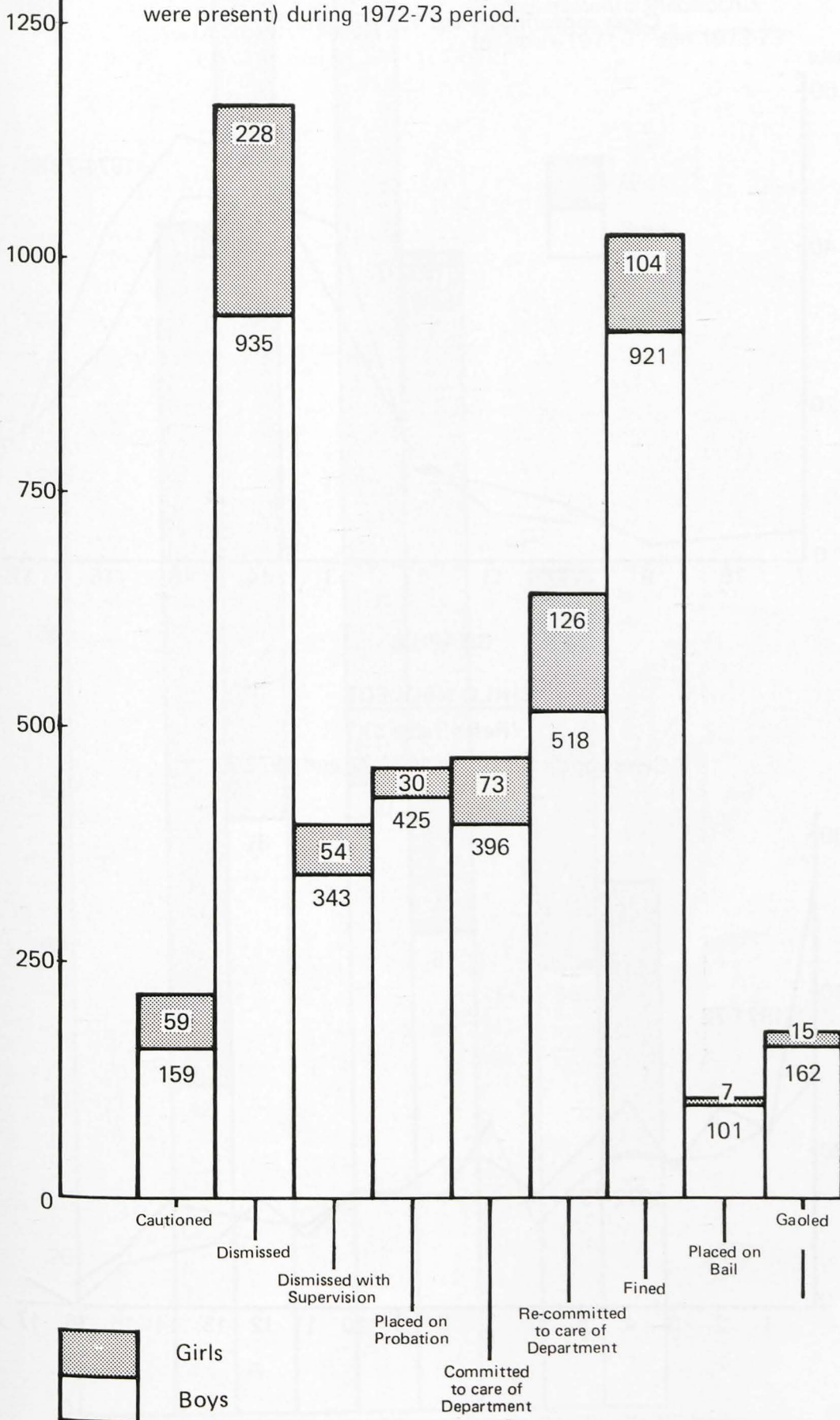
Percentage of Children appearing  
Aboriginal and European children appearing in  
Children's Courts in Western Australia during  
1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73.



**GRAPH 4**  
**JUVENILE OFFENCES**

No. of Court  
Decisions

Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts  
in Western Australia (at which Departmental Officers  
were present) during 1972-73 period.



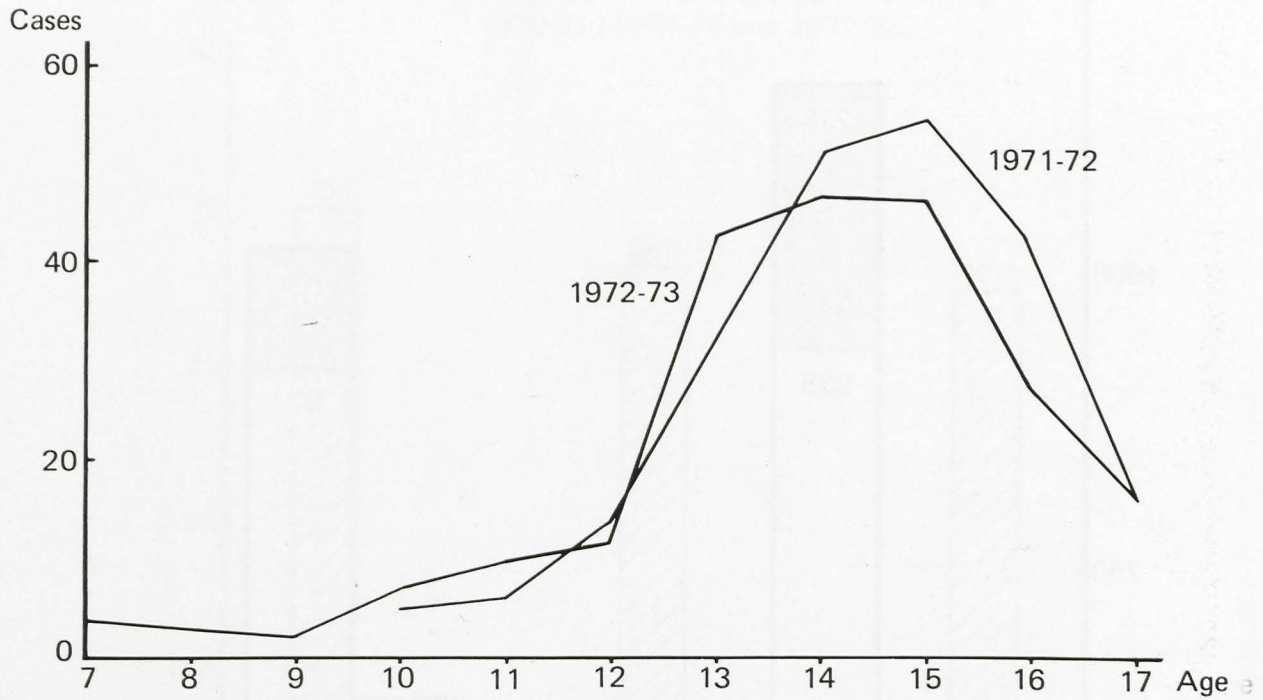


GRAPH 5

JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR

(Refer Table 4)

Cases appearing by age 1971-72 and 1972-73

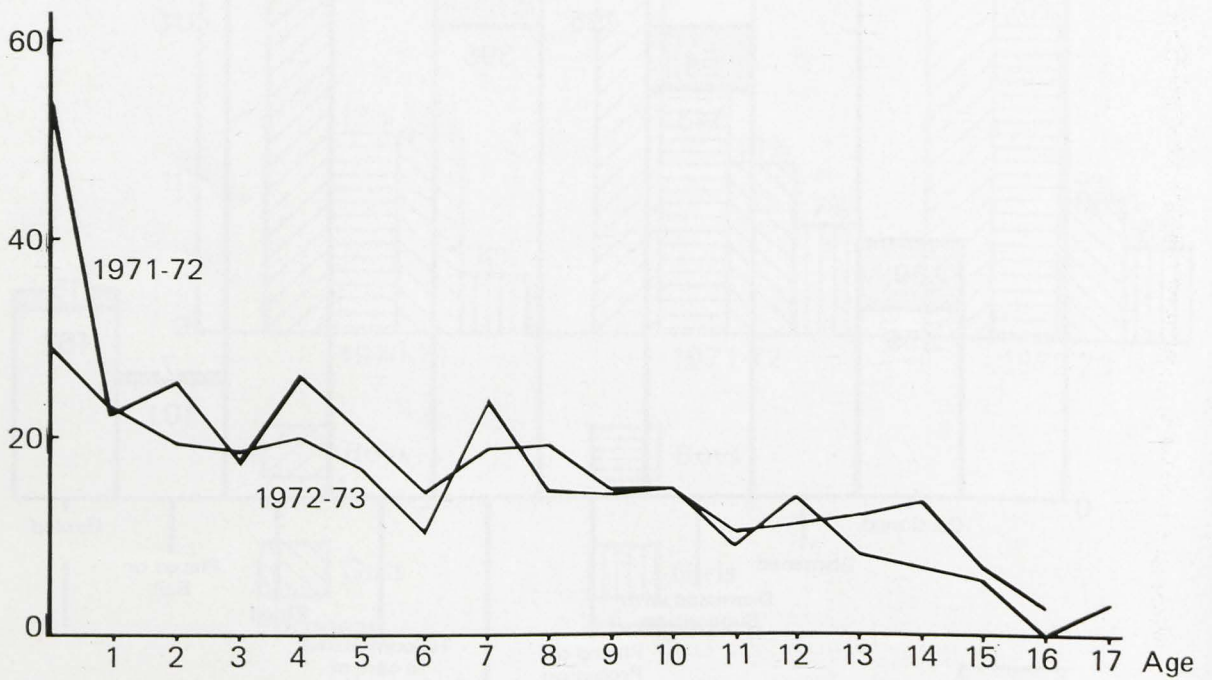


GRAPH 6

CHILD NEGLECT

(Refer Table 5)

Cases appearing by age 1971-72 and 1972-73

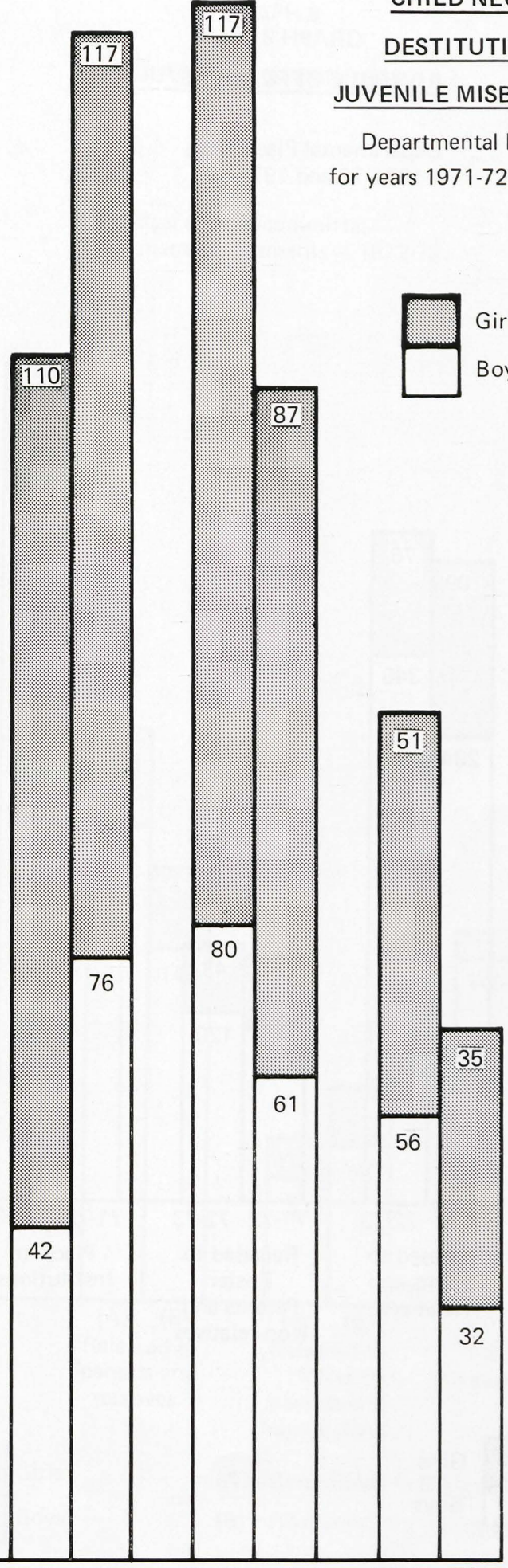


Cases  
200  
180  
160  
140  
120  
100  
80  
60  
40  
20  
0

GRAPH 7  
CHILD NEGLECT,  
DESTITUTION AND  
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR  
Departmental Placements  
for years 1971-72 and 1972-73

Girls  
Boys

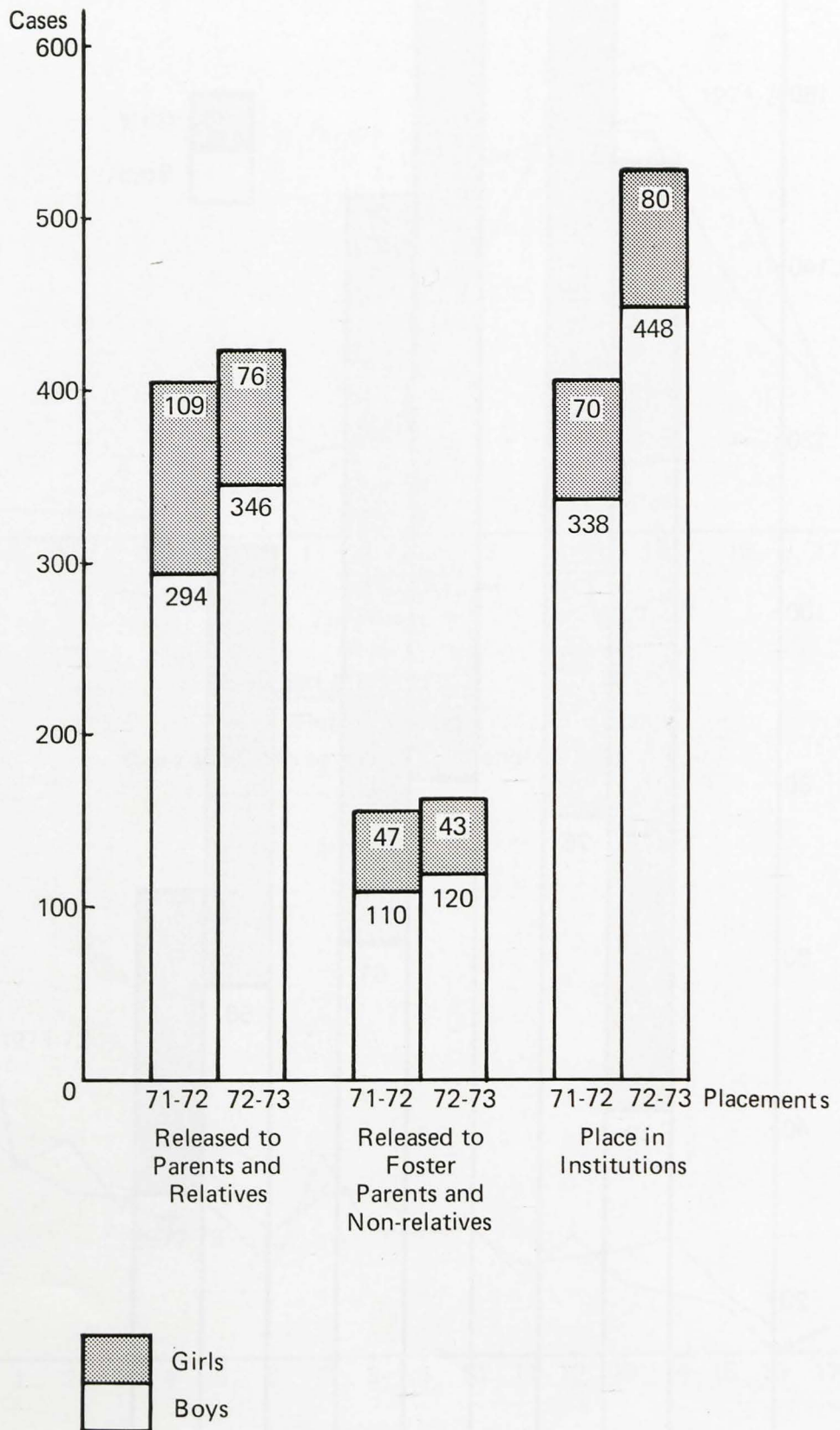
71-72 72-73 71-72 72-73 71-72 72-73 Years  
Released to Parents and Relatives Released to Foster Parents and Non-relatives Institutions





# GRAPH 8 JUVENILE OFFENDERS

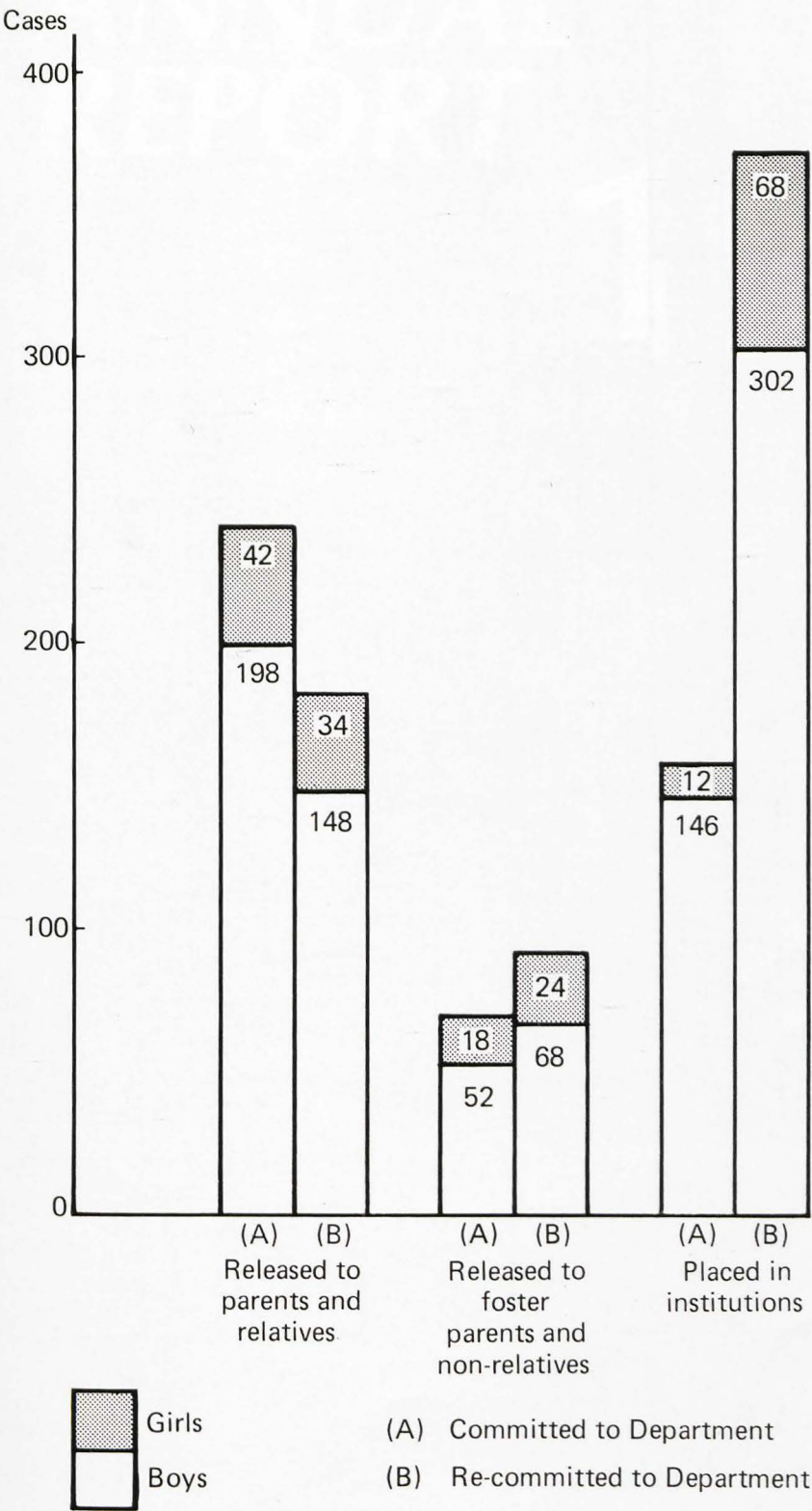
Departmental Placements  
1971-72 and 1972-73



GRAPH 9

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Committal and Re-committal  
Departmental Placements — 1972-73





GRAPH 10

TEN HIGHEST NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES OF CHILDREN  
IN METROPOLITAN AREA – YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1973 (also refer Table 9)

